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A WINTER

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

TEMPLE OF RAMESES II., MEMNONIUM, THEBES.

BY

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LONDON:
HURST AND BLACKETT, PUBLISHERS,
SUCCESSORS TO HENRY COLBURN,
13, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.
1863.

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CHAPTER I.

Travelling in 1833 and 1863—The Author's Previous Voyage to Egypt—Three Hours in Malta—Maltese Shopkeepers—Arrival at Alexandria—Landing in Africa—Modern Alexandria—The Great Square—Europeans in Alexandria—Intriguing Character and Conduct of the French—The Suez Canal—General Unpopularity of the Scheme—Expense of the Undertaking—The French Colony—Their Real Object—Forced Labour—Foundation of the Ancient City of Alexandria—Antiquities—Pompey's Pillar—Cleopatra's Needle—Cæsar's Camp—Railway from Alexandria to Cairo—Railways and Railway Passengers in Egypt—Gold and Poverty—A Ride through the Delta—Bridge across the Nile—The Pasha's Railway.

In 1832-3 my visit to Egypt was to see the country, and study its ancient monuments. In 1860-61 health was my object, trusting that the fine climate of the Nile might be more efficacious than that of Italy or Spain.

Travellers in former days had to encounter no slight difficulties before reaching Alexandria. A short epitome of the sufferings I endured on my previous voyage will afford a striking contrast to the comfort and even luxuries enjoyed by travellers in the present day.

We were ten days in a wretched sailing vessel from Naples to Messina, the sailors attributing the unusual length of our voyage to a certain Marchese, a celebrated Iattatore, who always brought ill luck with him. The Marchese was a poet, and wrote a sonnet, praising the good looks of his sovereign, who immediately fell seriously ill. After his recovery, the Marchese wrote another sonnet, congratulating the people that the sun again shone upon them. The King had a sudden relapse, and died; and our Marchese's character as a Iattatore was fully established.

We had then a miserable passage in a spironale from Syracuse to Malta. Hearing that the cholera was raging in Alexandria, we sailed to Patras, and landed in Greece the very day that Capo d'Istrias was assassinated. The country was in confusion, every rascal turning out with his gun. After various miraculous escapes from robbers, in the Morea, and being robbed by banditti on our way to Marathon, we sailed from Egina to Syra. The little vessel was crowded with passengers and their families, but had not half ballast enough. A dreadful storm arose near Cape Colonna,

the classic scene of ~~Thompson~~'s shipwreck. The sailors were obliged to destroy the little huts erected on the decks for the women, whose cries were fearful. Many of the passengers were part proprietors of the vessel, and thought themselves entitled to give their advice as to what ought to be done. Such a scene of misery and confusion was never witnessed.

At last a lieutenant in the Greek navy recollected having seen in his youth a little port, which he thought we might make. The captain produced a large map, but no such port was marked on it. It being, however, the almost unanimous opinion that it was our best chance, the helm was given to the lieutenant, who piloted us most gallantly into the little creek.

At Syra there was no better vessel sailing for Alexandria than a miserable small Turkish bombard with a wretched little dirty cabin not four feet high. The vessel sailed well when the wind was favourable; but when it was contrary and high, we were driven back to Rhodes, and had to wait in the convent there six weeks before we could again set sail.

It blew a gale near Alexandria, and we were driven far past that port. The captain, who had hitherto appeared collected and brave, was crying at the helm; and when I reproached him, he said it was for his family he should never see again; but Providence was kind, and about five months after we left Italy,

we landed at the port we set out for from Naples.

Finding that later on in the year we should have worse accommodation, and perhaps run the risk of not finding berths at all, we embarked on the 4th of October in the *Valetta.** It would be impossible to have greater comforts at sea than we enjoyed in this vessel. As there were few passengers on board, we had each a cabin of two berths to ourselves, and the fare was excellent, though some few old topers did grumble a little at the wine.

On the Sunday the crew were summoned to prayers, which the captain read, and most impressive was the scene. When I counted fifty sailors and officers, and saw their strict discipline, and the regularity with which they made their nautical observations, I felt that if the stormy winds did blow, no one, however weak his nerves, need feel alarm with so gallant a crew, commanded by officers who, with their practical skill, combined so much scientific knowledge.

* Few travellers visit Egypt now before November or December, but for invalids who desire a dry climate, and require a continuance of fine weather to re-establish their health, it is better to go there the beginning of October. There is then a greater chance of a smooth passage, and being early, they have the choice of boats and servants. They have an opportunity, also, of seeing some portions of the Delta covered with the inundation, and the villages surrounded with water like little islands. The sunsets on the Nile are also finer at the end of October or beginning of November than afterwards. Travellers during these months should carefully avoid the night damps, which, however, diminish as you sail up the river, and at Esneh cease entirely.

It is the privilege, however, of Englishmen to grumble, and we were not a little discontented at scarcely finding a seat on the deck to sit down upon. Most of the passengers came provided with their easy chairs, and fortunately I found one which had been left behind by some stray passenger in a former voyage. I made a couch on one of the skylights; but though I pleaded illness and a weak spine, the testy purser forbade me to take the pillow from my own bed to make it more comfortable.

With the exception of two or three gentlemen we left at Malta, our passengers were mostly all bound for India. About a dozen were engineers, and others connected with the great railways now constructing in that country. Some gentlemen were in the civil and military services, and others were merchants carrying out young and good-looking brides, to make their Indian homes more agreeable.

My experience of the Peninsular boats the October of the year following was unfortunately very different. After waiting several days at Marseilles, when the London passengers arrived there was only one place vacant, in a room with twelve berths, called the omnibus. The air was so stifling I could not sleep; the sea was rough, the rain fell in torrents, and everybody was ill. Disgusted with the accommodations, I landed at Malta, and after waiting there several days, I could get no better place in the next

boat, the *Peri*, than the worst berth in an omnibus, with seven others; and though the room was nearly as large as the one for twelve, and better ventilated, the discomfort was very great, and made me so unwell that I vowed I would never sail again in one of that company's boats.

The Messageries Imperiales are very comfortable; and now the new line to China offers further accommodation; but I am told they have made a bad beginning, both as to vessels and comfort.

The steam-boats of the company formed by the Pashas, and other great officers of the court, under the patronage of Ismail Pasha—who, besides taking shares, guarantees a dividend of six per cent—will afford facilities to travellers; and energetic as the present Pasha appears to be, we may probably soon see steamers for travellers to Thebes and Asouan, and hotels at both those places.

The steamers from Liverpool to Alexandria, which call at Malta, are very good, and never overcrowded, and the passage-money much less. I returned to Europe by the Trieste route, in the *Neptune*, a fine vessel.

The scenery was very picturesque, passing near to Candia and the coast of the Morea, and especially near Navarino. We stopped four hours at Corfu, the most beautiful of the Ionian Islands, and followed afterwards the wild coasts of Albania and Dalmatia.

These vessels are, however, very crowded in the spring, and I should have had to submit to an omnibus again, if I had not paid five pounds extra for the captain's berth.

No one can leave Marseilles without admiring the bold and rocky coast, which extends for miles. Corsica, and the barren rocky Island of Sardinia, are also interesting.

We had taken our passage only for Malta, intending to stay there if rough, till the weather should become more favourable; but as there was scarcely a ripple on the water, and we were bad sailors, we thought it would be tempting Providence not to take advantage of the present calm, and to continue our voyage in the good, and as they say always fortunate, ship, the *Valetta*.

It was moonlight when we arrived at Malta, and as we had three hours to stay there, we sailed across the beautiful harbour, and drove about the narrow but picturesque streets, all the houses of which have stone balconies.

The hotels at Malta, especially the Imperial and Dumford's are good and cheap (seven shillings a day), and it is an excellent place to make purchases for the Nile voyage. The church of St. John's, the villa of St. Antonio, and the Governor's house, are worth seeing, and excursions may be made to Casal Crendi, St. Paul's Bay, and especially to Citta Vecchia, where

the tesselated marble figures on the pavement of the church are more interesting than St. John's; but I must confess I dislike Malta and its endless stone walls.

I have seen Malta under the glare of a hot sun, and have ridden into the country round, which is as barren as the desert, without its grandeur, but never did I see it so beautiful. Fortunate are they who only see Malta by the pale light of the moon. All the honest tradesmen, I presume, had closed their shops, and only the rogues were wide awake. We were asked three pounds twelve shillings for a mantilla for which they were willing to take thirty shillings; and every passenger had some tale to tell of their extortion. One gentleman, who had often visited Malta, boasted to us that he had defied them to cheat him, and thought himself clever in beating them down to half the prices demanded; but, on opening his parcel on board, he found they had substituted for what he had bought inferior articles, which he had rejected, and would not have purchased at any price.

Early on the 11th of October, we reached Alexandria, after a glorious passage, no one the least ill. There was great confusion in removing the luggage; and though I thought I had taken great pains to secure a bag containing my money and other valuables, when my back was turned for a moment it was

snatched up by an Arab, and flung among the Indian luggage.

Travellers going further than Egypt have merely to obey orders, the Company taking charge of their persons and luggage. All they have to do is to look sharp for good rooms in the hotels at Alexandria and Cairo, when allowed to stay there, taking care to telegraph for them to Shepheard's at Cairo, or the new hotel there, which is much praised. Travellers in Egypt should land with their baggage and go direct to the custom-house, where a small bribe will save its being examined.* I returned for mine with a dragoman and a janissary from the Consul, which I found a far more expensive plan, and utterly useless, as there is a very civil man at the custom-house, who speaks English perfectly.

The landing in Africa for the first time is very interesting. The picturesqueness of the costumes, the profusion and variety of colours—blue and white predominating—red caps with blue tassels, and white, yellow, green, and red turbans, being the usual headdress of the men—the strings of laden camels, the shouting and bawling in an unknown tongue by a vivacious people, the beautiful minarets, and, amidst this confusion and bustle, the quiet imperturbable de-

* It is however prudent for several to land together, with sticks in their hands, to ensure the respect of the Arabs. On my last visit to Egypt I was nearly torn to pieces, so violent was their scramble for me and my luggage.

meanour of the Turks and Arabs transacting their business, and at the same time smoking their pipes cross-legged before their stalls, are very Oriental.

During the four days we stayed at the very good Peninsular and Oriental Hotel we rambled often in the bazaars, and were delighted with the variety of costumes of the Arabs, Turks, Armenians, &c., and the various goods displayed, especially the red and yellow striped scarfs, &c., in the Armenian bazaar. The picturesque appearance of the Turkish bazaar is rather destroyed by the great length, regularity, and width of the street. The shops are like large cupboards, in the back part of which the goods are stowed very untidily. The bench in front of the shop is generally covered with a carpet, and often cushions, and serves as a divan for the shopkeepers and their customers; but few goods of any value are displayed.

Modern Alexandria has little to interest the stranger. The population has doubled within the last quarter of a century, being now about 70,000. The large Square is more dingy than it used to be, and the dust, a pungent mixture of rubbish and calcareous rock, is insufferable. Few can prolong their stay in Alexandria without aching eyes.

The climate of Alexandria prevents the Great Square from ever looking freshly painted; nevertheless the large hotels, the English church, the residences of the Consuls, and other buildings, are very

handsome. The promenade in the centre, planted with trees, and adorned with two fountains and marble seats, is a great improvement; but when it rains, which it frequently does in Alexandria, the promenade becomes an island, the roads surrounding it being ankle deep in water and mud.

The Pasha has commenced building a large market behind the Peninsular Hotel. If he would make a pier fronting the sea, it would indeed be a benefit. Many streets lead down from the Square to the shore, and strangers naturally turn down them to enjoy the breezes so delicious in this hot climate, but the indescribable filth they encounter soon makes them retrace their steps. The health and enjoyment of the Alexandrians absolutely require the purification of the beach.

The number of Europeans is very great in Alexandria; some wear the Nizam dress, and others retain their own costume. It is strange to see these would-be Turks, and others in European dresses, arm-in-arm on the promenades. Few European ladies are seen in the streets, but it excites one's pity this hot weather, to see the quantity of Turkish females scarcely able to waddle along under the heap of silks with which they give themselves the desired appearance of corpulency.

It is said that there are between seven and eight thousand Frenchmen in Alexandria alone; they are

working themselves into every employment and business, and, when I was there, doing their best to entangle Said Pasha into irrecoverable debts, mortgaging the revenues of the country for their immense advances; and, it was rumoured, anxious to clear him from his debts to English and other merchants, that they alone might enjoy the political advantage of being his creditors. At their suggestion, it was said, the Pasha was reducing his army, particularly his cavalry regiments. All appeared alarmed at measures which they thought might end in the country becoming a French province.

The revenue of Egypt is nearly five millions sterling. The Pasha's chief expense was his army, which consisted of about 20,000 men, but, independent of the Suez canal, the French were continually leading him into little and great extravagancies. I heard of his giving 6,500 francs a piece for twenty-four French mirrors, which could not have cost a tenth of the sum; and he gave an order for a small steam yacht, for which he was charged three times its value. The arsenal, they say, is full of valuable goods, deposited there from their not knowing what to do with them; and he spent immense sums to satisfy claims which were without any foundation.

A Greek pretended that Mohammed Ali, before witnesses, had promised to concede to him the making of the railway between Alexandria and Cairo. The

claim was referred to the French Government, who decided against the Greek; and yet the Pasha gave him £150,000, one-third of which is supposed to have been pocketed by his witnesses. This is but one of many claims made against him.

The Pasha, it is said, never went near his harem. He lived generally at his palace, twelve or fourteen miles from Alexandria, to keep out of the way of the French and others, who led him into these extravagancies. The treasury bonds, though paid most punctually when due, were sometimes at a great discount. In 1859 they might be bought to pay thirty per cent interest, and when I was there, twelve and a half.

The English loan, since my visit, rescued the late Pasha from his dependence on French capitalists; but the Suez canal, in which he was so largely involved, will, for seven years, be a drain on his successor's finances, amounting, some say, to a quarter of a million sterling; but according to Mr. Oliveira, £1,400,000, to be paid in monthly instalments of £60,000, commencing 1st January, 1864, with a liability to future calls, amounting to thirteen hundred thousand more.

It would be rash in these days to doubt that the canal could be completed. An experienced English engineer, who visited the works last spring (1863), informed me that they might be finished in three years. The jetties on the Mediterranean, probably four miles in extent, and on the Red Sea, may be easily accom-

plished, though they would probably entail an annual expense of twenty thousand pounds to extend them, keep them in repair, and to dredge out the immense quantities of sand thrown up by the Mediterranean. These breakwaters would probably be very inefficient protection from the severe gales which are so frequent on that coast.

Considering the difficult navigation of the Red Sea, and the great expenses of the undertaking, no one supposes that it would ever pay. I am told that there is not a merchant or person of any wealth in Egypt who has shares in it; and we may infer that such is generally the case in France, from the shares seldom appearing in the lists of the stock-brokers. It is said that most of the money expended beyond the Pasha's contributions was found by the French Government.

The late decision of the Sultan, requiring "the neutrality of the territory, the abolition of forced labour, and the abandonment by the Company of the clause concerning the fresh-water canals and the cession of the adjoining territory," will probably put an end to a Company whose real object appears to have been the establishment of a French colony. At this moment they occupy a territory (narrow though it be) from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea—a strong military position, consisting for a very great part of

the way of the canal, or broad ditch, with its high embankments.

If the canal is completed, and this territory left in the hands of the French, and a war broke out, our usual fleet in the Mediterranean might not be able to prevent an expedition of iron-clad steamers from Toulon suddenly seizing Egypt, and even proceeding to India.

There is, perhaps, a little exaggeration in the Turkish letter as to the number of peasants forcibly diverted from their usual manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural occupations. I am informed that the number at work this spring was 10,000, and that, besides working a month, they were generally another month in going and returning. If this be true, the number taken from their homes generally would be only 20,000, and not 60,000, as the Turkish minister states. Mr. Oliveira, however, says that the number working at one place in April was 18,000 ; he states the pay of the labourers to be eightpence a day; but the same engineer told me that they received three quarters of a dollar a day when actually working, subject to deductions for rations—so that their pay for the two months was above one shilling a day. Though this is much more than the peasant can gain as a labourer elsewhere, it will never induce him to leave his village, his family, and most probably his

crops, especially if it be generally understood that the Pasha would rather he stayed at home.

Typhus of the most virulent kind has broken out this summer among the return levies, ill-fed, and crowded in boats. Others have been attacked on reaching their villages, and the disease was rapidly spreading.

If Ismail Pasha was desirous of saving his large contributions to the Company, and, without offending the French Consul-General and the powerful French party in Egypt, get rid of a colony who, with the assistance of iron-clads and soldiers, might some day be his masters, the Turkish letter will be most welcome to him. The Sultan offers very liberally, if the Company do not consent to the conditions he imposes, to refund to them the money they have expended without his sanction, and promises to make an arrangement with Ismail Pasha for the completion of the canal. Little reliance can be placed on such promises, and the French Government will no doubt make every effort to obtain the Sultan's consent to the completion of the undertaking.

Of the modern buildings the Pasha's palace is the only one worth visiting. The architecture is plain, but the suite of rooms is handsome. The furniture is entirely from France, but the large divans give it an Oriental appearance. The silver beds, of old-fashioned English shape, have rich curtains of cloth of gold and

silver, and a rose pattern of Damascus manufacture. There are state chairs in almost every room, of an immense size, to suit the corpulent Pasha. From the balcony of one of the rooms there is a fine view of the harbour where the Pasha's steam-yachts anchor.

Half an hour's drive from Alexandria is a garden belonging to a Pasha, which can only be considered pretty as contrasted with the desert around it; but the drive from it is pleasant, along the Mahmoodeeh Canal, with the lake Mareotis in the distance. At Alexandria is a small but pretty English church, and many new streets have sprung up in the Frank quarter.

Alexandria was founded on the site of a small town called Racotis. The Pharaohs carried on their commerce chiefly by means of caravans. They had probably a few ships at the ports they possessed on the Red Sea, for their commerce with India; but they appear to have considered Europeans as pirates, and studiously avoided all intercourse with them. It was only at the Canopian branch of the Nile that in later times they were allowed to enter the country, and there only under severe restrictions. Alexander the Great saw the advantages of Racotis, with its island of Pharos; and ordered Dinocrates, the architect, to improve the harbour and build a city, which soon became the emporium of the East. Little now remains of its magnificence; the old lighthouse marks

the site of the ancient Pharos, which is said to have cost £155,000; but the site of the Museum, with its library of 400,000 volumes, and the splendid Sarapeum, and its library of 300,000 volumes, the resorts of the learned of that age, can now only be conjectured. The Museum library was destroyed by fire during the war of Julius Cæsar with the Alexandrians; and the Sarapeum library, which contained the 200,000 volumes belonging to the kings of Pergamus, presented by Mark Antony to Cleopatra, was destroyed by Amer, the lieutenant of the Caliph Omar "If these writings of the Greeks," said Omar, "agree with the book of God, they are useless; if they disagree, they are pernicious, and ought to be destroyed."

Of the ancient city of Alexandria, little remains. Pompey's Pillar, picturesquely situated on an eminence, is well worth a visit. The shaft, seventy-three high, and twenty-nine feet eight inches in circumference, is beautifully proportioned. The capital is in worse style; the total height, including the base and pedestal, is ninety-eight feet nine inches. The Greek inscription shows it was erected in honour of Dioclesian, who captured Alexandria A.D. 296. The view from it, embracing a forest of palms, the town, and an Arab cemetery, is interesting.

Almost the only other remnant of antiquity of any importance is what is called Cleopatra's Needle, a red

granite obelisk, seventy feet high, bearing the names of Thothmes III., and Rameses the Great, the supposed Sesostris. The hieroglyphics are much worn by the sea air. Its companion, which was given to the English, is covered with sand for its protection. They are supposed to be the two described by Pliny, brought from Heliopolis.

About two miles beyond the Rosetta Gate is an old Roman station, called Cæsar's Camp, supposed to be Nicopolis, where Augustus defeated the partisans of Antony, and 1832 years after was the battle-field of the English and French armies. There are considerable remains of towers and walls, and in a small house (the keeper of which is generally near at hand), there is a fine mosaic with a figure of Bacchus in the centre. Among the vast mounds of ruins between the camp and the gate antiquities are often found. I saw a large marble sarcophagus decorated with heads and wreaths. The catacombs are worth exploring for their extent and the elegance of the architecture.

The railway from Alexandria to Cairo, one hundred and thirty miles long, is admirably conducted. We were seven hours on the journey, including a stoppage of half an hour at Kafr el Aesh for lunch; and a very good one we heard and saw it was, though the handbook warned us against it; and certainly the price—five shillings—is dear.

There are several railways branching from the

chief line, thirty or forty miles in extent. For their construction, the Sheakhs of the adjoining villages are required to find labourers for a month. No other pay is given to the poor men than two cakes of bread a day. In a flat country like the Delta, railways are laid down at a slight expense; and certainly they are increasing rapidly the prosperity of the country. But the Pasha is blamed for not charging less for merchandise, which would be less injured than it is when sent by water.

The railway from Alexandria to Cairo pays very well since the Arabs have taken to travelling; and the third class, it is said, pays better than the first. I saw several carriages full of third-class passengers, and I think they must have been returning from their forced labours on other lines, they were so joyous.

Many of the Arabs are now very rich; but strange to say, tempting as the rate of interest is, they do not hold a single treasury bond. The Pasha says he supposes they have no confidence in him. It is thought, as has ever been the case with the Arabs of every age, that they bury their gold as bullion flows into the country, and yet it is always scarce. I have heard of instances of rich men in the villages hiding their own treasures, and borrowing money from Jews, that they may shew the bonds to the Turks, to prove their poverty, and escape extortions. Women are

often seen with wretched garments, and ornaments of gold of great value.

The ride through the Delta is very interesting. In many places the inundation of the Nile had not subsided, and the villages, with their groves of palm, were like little islands. The richness and fertility of the country astonish a European; and the different caravans, and groups of peasants on camels, horses, donkeys, and on foot, were very picturesque. Numbers were working in the fields; all appeared active and industrious, the secret being that they were not working for the Pasha as in the time of Mohammed Ali, Said Pasha leaving them something, though not much, for themselves. There was far less appearance of poverty than in former times, the exceptions to the general prosperity being a few old men too old to work, but busy enough, we observed, attempting to rid themselves of their vermin.

About half-way from Alexandria, across the Damietta branch of the Nile, is an admirable iron bridge, suspended on clustered stone columns with the appropriate papyrus capital. The Pasha was so pleased with this work, that he gave the architect who superintended its execution £10,000.

The railway is the property of the Pasha, and, it is said, when he uses it, he exercises the privilege of doing what he likes with his own, stopping it to lunch,

sleep, or pray, or for any other purpose. As might have been expected, he was run into once by another train, and had a narrow escape.

On arriving at Cairo, our luggage being too heavy for a carriage, we had great difficulty in getting a cart, as some soldiers of the Pasha had seized them for their artillery, but at last very reluctantly yielded one to me.

CHAPTER II.

Cairo—The Uzbekeeh—Europeans in Cairo—Street Scenes—Picturesque Groups in the Bazaars—Bridal Processions—Donkeys and Carriages—The Ghoree and Turkish Bazaars—The Mosks—The Sharáwee and the Mosk of the Sultan Hassan—Architecture of the old Mosk of Tayloon and of El Ghoree—Origin of the Pointed Style in the East—El Ezher, the Great College of Cairo—The Citadel—Joseph's Well—Tombs of the Memlooks—Tombs of the Reigning Dynasty—Sepulchres of Achmet and of Ibrahim Pashas—Old Cairo—Deyr el Adra, or the Chapel of the Virgin—The Convent of St. George—A Coptic Turban—The Mosk of Amer—Island of Rhoda—Interesting Views—The Mekkeeas, or Nilometer—The Garden of Shoobra—The Great Fountain—Kasr el Ainee, or College of Dervishes—A Strange Ceremony—The Obelisk of Heliopolis—Visit to the Camp and Hospital of Abouzaleel—Mohammed Ali—The Mooled el Hassaneyn—Good Humour of the Modern Egyptians—Extraordinary Scene at the Festival of the Doseh.

Cairo has changed little within the last quarter of a century. The mosks are more dilapidated, and the colours in them much less bright. One great improvement has been effected. The Uzbekeeh, a large square containing 450,000 square feet, which, during the inundation, was formerly covered with water, and at other times a cornfield, is now beautifully planted,

affording the greatest of all luxuries in a hot climate —delicious shade.

Under the trees are some indifferent cafés, where excellent coffee, sherbet, and punch may be had, and where a very poor band plays in the evenings. On Sundays the promenade is very crowded—Franks and Turks in their Nizam dresses. European tradesmen, who have not adopted the latter, generally wear the red Tarboosh, while their wives and daughters appear in European dresses, though not in the best taste.

The groups that will interest the stranger most are the citizens playing at dominoes, chess, and back-gammon, and the peasants collected round the jugglers. If the cafés were good, and the gardens better taken care of, few promenades in the world would be more delightful. Some of the houses which surround it are handsome, especially the Palace of the late Pasha's sister, and Shepheard's large hotel—with all its defects, the best in Cairo—as well as the Hotel d'Orient, the next best, on the opposite side of the square; but the artist will admire more the old houses, with their picturesque latticed wood windows, or Mushrebéehs. The minaret of a mosk, surrounded by trees, adds to the effect.

The sights of Cairo are not very numerous, but the streets and bazaars are extremely interesting. Some of the streets are so narrow people could shake hands across them, and their beautiful Mushrebéehs almost

touch. One is never weary of seeing these beautiful latticed windows, there is such a variety in their form, and the pattern of their woodwork. When these picturesque old streets are combined with fountains, with windows of an elaborate and often tasteful design, and the far grander works of art—the splendid red and white mosks, with their exquisite minarets, perfect specimens of Saracenic art—every one must allow that Cairo has attractions which cannot be surpassed by any other oriental city, equalling, and, some say, even surpassing Damascus and Constantinople.

These are a few of the architectural attractions of the streets of Cairo, but the crowds which animate them are not less interesting. Rich and poor, high and low, are conglomerated together. Every variety of costume, and every shade of complexion, from the swarthy Nubian to the fair Circassian. Sometimes the attention is drawn to the harem of a rich Turk, enveloped in silks of black and gay colours, of a breadth that would satisfy even a *Parisienne's* taste (though they wear no crinoline), as if, like fair Fatima, of Tripoli, "they had been bought by the hundred-weight, and trundled home in a wheelbarrow."* They are often mounted on donkeys, richly caparisoned, of a merit and value unknown in Europe.

* Salmagundi.

Besides the harems, the most extraordinary groups of women are often seen on foot in the bazaars; nothing human distinguishable except a pair of fine black eyes, not sparing in their glances, peeping over the linen masks that cover their faces from the eyes downwards, the rest of the body having the appearance of an immense lump of merchandise covered with folds of linen or silk, scarcely showing their yellow boots. They are mostly attended by slaves, or some elderly female relation.

You see, likewise, in the bazaar at Cairo, wealthy Turks on splendid horses, with saddle-cloths embroidered with gold; soldiers in various uniforms; Syrians with their red caps and long flowing robes; fierce-looking Arabs of the desert; the degenerate Fellaheen, in their immense white, red, and green turbans, commonly put on in horizontal folds, their dress consisting of large blue or white linen and woollen gowns; Copts, a wealthy race, with large turbans and flowing gowns generally black; and in rags, and dirty, the picturesque water-carriers and sellers not only of water, but other cool drinks, so requisite in this parching climate.

At other times may be seen interesting processions: brides covered with crimson dresses, and wearing coronets of paste diamonds, walking under a canopy supported by four men, and attended by musicians playing drums and cymbals. Heading these bridal

processions were always one or more little boys of about eight years old, dressed in purple or crimson and gold embroidered jackets, mounted on tall Arab horses, going to be circumcised. As their faces were entirely covered, except little holes for their eyes—the brides for delicacy, the boys to save them from the Evil Eye—we could not tell their ages ; but from their size, no doubt we were accurately informed that the boys were eight, the girls eleven to thirteen years old.

The donkeys of Cairo are surprising little animals, fearfully neglected and overworked, falling often, from want of proper food and fatigue, though ever ready to go at a quick trot or gallop; but in the crowded bazaars they are generally obliged to confine their pace to a pleasant amble. In these degenerate days carriages are seen in the broadest bazaars, quite in European style, except that the coachmen wear red *tarboushes*, and the carriages are generally accompanied by running footmen, in oriental costume, who are indispensable to clear the way even in the widest streets.

Strings of sometimes a score of camels, enhance the difficulty of getting through the crowded bazaars in the busy time of day. The noise adds not a little to the scene ; the auctioneers shouting out the merits of the articles on sale—the donkey-boys screaming *Yeméenak* (to thy right) ; *Shimálak* (to thy left) ; *Riglak* (thy foot) ; *Yaweled* (boy) ; *Yabint* (girl), to

every woman of the lower class; *Yasit* (to a lady); *Yasheakh* (to older men). Amidst all this bustle and confusion, the shop-keepers sit in front of their stalls, cushioned on their Persian carpets, and smoking their pipes, cool and collected, regardless of the noise around them. It is slow work transacting business with them, as they must be beaten down to nearly half they ask.

The Ghoree Bazaar is, perhaps, the most picturesque in Cairo; but the articles on sale in the Turkish Bazaar are more valuable—rich embroideries, carpets, gilt-worked bracelets, red and yellow slippers, amber mouth-pieces for pipes, beautiful silver-filagree holders for coffee-cups, diamond ornaments, and every variety of arms and rich Oriental costume. The Khan Khaleel, the part of the Turkish Bazaar separated from the rest by a chain, and, now that the Caireens are, they say, impoverished, supported almost entirely by Europeans, would tempt the most penurious.

The mosks are the pride of Cairo. Unwashed, unpainted, unrepaired, and even crumbling into dust, as many of them are, their beautiful minarets rival the palms in gracefulness; and, combined with the glorious street architecture, the elegant fountains, and picturesque costumes, are enough to drive an artist crazy, that the noise and confusion of the ever-moving crowds prevent their drawing them. While the

sun shines, nothing but the plague thins the bazaars of Cairo.

A note from the Consul procured us one of the police to accompany us to the principal mosks, which is desirable, as the people are often fanatic. The first we visited was the Sharáwee, dedicated to one of the principal saints of Cairo, founded in the beginning of the fifteenth century. The view of its large court, with its fountain of red and white stone, is very beautiful. The gate adjoining, called Bab Yooayleh, is very picturesque, combined with the two minarets of the mosk, which, with their stages of rich machicolations, are splendid specimens of Saracenic art.

The next we saw was the Mosk of Sultan Hassan, which is considered the finest in Cairo. The lofty exterior walls are almost too plain, especially on one side, but the bold machicolated cornice is very rich. The lofty porch, with its machicolations at the angles, is very imposing, and worthy of the noble Hypæthral Court it leads into, ornamented with four magnificent arches. The architecture is admirable, though the colours are not so bright as I recollect them. In the interior there is much to admire. A grand frieze, in large Arabic characters; another with rich lace-work, reminding us of the Alhambra, and two rows of coloured-glass vases, of Syrian manufacture. The tomb of the Sultan is not remarkable. The minaret is beautiful.

We then visited the Mosk of Sultan Kalaoon. The Morostan, or madhouse, adjoins it, the inmates of which are now removed to another quarter of Cairo. Formerly the lunatics were confined here in dens like wild-beasts, and some of them, in their madness, had torn every rag from their bodies. The minarets of the Mosk of Sultan Kalaoon are very fine. The Mahrab, or niche for prayer, which shows the direction of Mekkeh, is inlaid with mother-of-pearl, different coloured mosaics, and little alabaster columns, and is very rich and beautiful.

We next visited the old Mosk of Tayloon, founded, without a doubt, from the Cufic inscriptions, and from the era of that prince's reign, before the end of the ninth century. The arches that remain are all pure specimens of the pointed style, proving the existence of the pointed arch in Egypt three centuries before its introduction into England, and above a century before it was used in any part of Europe. Besides the arches, the lace-work and Cufic inscriptions are worthy of observation.

We then visited the Mosk of El Ghoree, so imposing in its form and rich in its colouring; the exterior painted, like almost all the mosks in Cairo, red and white. Everyone must admire the beautiful octagon, the horse-shoe arches, the roof exquisitely decorated with lace-work, which also ornaments many of the windows and walls of this mosk. I observed

four grand columns, probably from some ancient temple. The niche for prayer is exquisitely decorated with little columns, marble and mother-of-pearl.

We finally visited the Mosk of Sultan el Hakem, who reigned from 996 to 1021. As these arches are all pointed with a slight horse-shoe curve at the base, they form another proof that the pointed style had its origin in the East. It is close to the Gate of Bab el Nasr, which is one of the few gateways in Cairo worth visiting.

Our bigoted dragoman made some excuse for not taking us to the Mosk of El Ezher, the great college of Cairo, which is well worth seeing for its elegant architecture. I saw it on my first visit to Egypt, when it was somewhat dangerous for a European to enter; but having a long beard and an Oriental dress, and being well bronzed with eighteen months' tour in the interior, I passed for a Turk. The numerous circular groups, forming the classes of the different masters, were very curious.

At all the mosks of Cairo, which are now used for prayer, it is necessary to submit to put on slippers at the entrance, or have the feet covered with cloths. The Moslems always take off their shoes when there are people praying, and every right-minded visitor, whatever may be his creed, will be careful not to offend their feelings.

The visit to the mosks is rather expensive; a

carriage costs ten shillings, and a fee of about two shillings is expected at each mosk; the janissary also looks for, at least, four shillings.

The citadel, which forms so grand a feature in the views of Cairo, is well worth seeing, and may be visited on donkeys or in a carriage. The mosk, built of Oriental alabaster, an extravagant material certainly for so immense a building, will disappoint most people who have any taste for architecture. Its minarets are so narrow, and absurdly elongated, I can compare them to nothing but a couple of tallow-candles. How the architect could have erected such monstrosities, with scores of admirable minarets around him, is extraordinary. The interior of the mosk is rich and harmonious, but the chandeliers impede the view of it.

The soldiers prevented us going to the best part of the platform of the citadel to enjoy the view. But from the part still accessible, we were amply recompensed for the fatiguing ascent.

The whole of the city of Cairo is seen, with its innumerable minarets; that of Sultan Hassan, immediately beneath being particularly distinguishable. In the distance, the desert, the Nile, and the Pyramids of Geezeh and Sakkara. The inundation, like a lake, adds now to the interest of the view, though it nearly doubles the distance of the pyramids for those who wish to visit them in October.

Joseph's Well, hewn out of the rock by the ancient Egyptians, is, they say, two hundred and sixty feet deep, and the mouth of it twenty feet by thirty; but, encumbered as it is with dirt, few will be tempted to descend the winding staircase and explore it. The place where Emin Bey escaped, by leaping his horse over the dilapidated walls, when Mohammed Ali massacred the other Memlooks, is still shown.

The palace, and especially the gardens of the Pasha, are worth seeing for the fine views you may there enjoy, more undisturbed than elsewhere.

The tombs of the Circassian Memlooks, commonly called the Caliphs, should be seen. A ride through one of the most uninteresting districts of Cairo brought us to the desert, where the strengthening breeze, driving away fatigue, enabled us to appreciate these fine ruins. Three tombs, each with domes and minarets, attracted our attention. The one to the left, our donkey-boy said, had no name, but I believe it to be El Eshraf. The one to the right, Nusr Kaedbai E'Zaheree, buried there A.D. 1496, has now a very dilapidated straggling appearance; but the minaret and dome are most beautiful. The one between these two, called El Berkook, appearing in better preservation, and architecturally most interesting, I selected for inspection, though its minaret is injured. The exterior retains considerable remains of the red and white stones with which it was faced.

There is a pretty little open corridor on the first floor, with pointed arches sustained by single columns. The entrance-hall, which is in good taste, leads into the large court of the mosk, the centre of which was decorated with a fountain, but the ornaments are all now taken away. The dome over the sanctuary had been richly ornamented : the wooden screen and several large ornamental inscriptions remain, but the door was locked, and we could only examine it very imperfectly through some holes there happened to be. The door of the tomb was open, and there was much to admire in the architecture of the dome. The machicolated spandrils, which are so attractive in Saracenic architecture, are seen in various parts of this building. Said Pasha was there when we arrived, in an open barouche, drawn by four large English horses, with light-yellow harness, which had a bad effect. He was accompanied by several officers on horseback, and a guard of twenty cavalry, of different regiments, with their flags.

Close to these tombs I have mentioned, we saw another mosk and tomb of Ahd Bey, with a beautiful minaret, and exquisite workmanship inside. The tesselated marble pavements, a portion of the ancient roof, the pulpit, the fragments of glass windows, the fine horse-shoe arch, and the profusion of tasteful ornaments, both in the mosk and tomb, are well worthy of observation. Last, not least, its cleanliness

and better preservation than most of the mosks of Cairo are remarkable. A road leads from here by the left side of the citadel, to another group of sepulchres of Memlook kings, situated in a wild district, beneath the mountain of Mokattam. Among these are the tombs of the reigning dynasty. We reserved them, however, for another day. The guides at Shepheard's will tell travellers that those which I have described are not worth going to see, but their wild and picturesque situation, with the desert-hills and the citadel for a background, will gratify even the mere lover of the picturesque. More attractive subjects for the pencil an artist could not desire, and their architectural merits are very great. Now their colour differs little from the desert, but, cased with red and white stone, their effect must have been very imposing; and in the interior I saw, in many places, traces of the blue and gold which decorated them.

We returned through the crowded picturesque streets of Cairo. I should advise everyone both to go and return by that way, as it cannot be too often repeated that the streets and bazaars are the greatest attraction of this great city. On another occasion I visited the tombs of the reigning dynasty; a long ride through some of the more quiet but still picturesque and interesting streets of Cairo. The exterior of the tomb is plain, with but a poor minaret. The architecture of the interior is good, and it is an

imposing sight to see so many well-preserved sepulchres. That of Achmet Pasha is rich and beautiful; but the tomb of Ibrahim Pasha is splendid, and in excellent taste: it presents but two colours, a purple ground, covered with the richest arabesque designs and inscriptions, carved in marble and gilt. It was executed by Arabs and Greeks in Cairo, and is certainly the finest specimen I have seen of modern Oriental art. It unites the greatest simplicity of design with the most admirable decorations.

Old Cairo, originally called Fostat, was founded A.D. 638, partly on the site of the ancient city of Babylon. It is about three miles from Cairo. We first visited the old church called Deyr el Adra, or the Chapel of the Virgin, which contains several subterranean chambers, where she is said to have reposed.

The wood and ivory screen is beautiful, and there are several old paintings, representing the flight into Egypt, and other subjects which are interesting. They are said to be of the middle of the ninth century; but from the style, which is far less stiff than paintings of that period, I should take them rather to be of the fourteenth century.

We then visited Muell Elias, or the Convent of St. George, the patron saint of the Copts. In one of the courts is an iron collar, with a chain, which to this day is still sometimes put on lunatics, as a

remedy for their infirmity. Here, also, are some paintings, said to be of the fourteenth century, and very much resembling in style those of the other church which I ascribed to that period.

Old Cairo is chiefly occupied by Copts, and we saw an interesting specimen of this race sitting before his house smoking a pipe. The old man's blue turban was exquisitely put on, and he seemed rather flattered by my counting the plaits, twenty in number, on each side of it. The flatness and regularity of the folds were quite extraordinary. A Parisian milliner could not have created anything half so symmetrical.

We then visited the Mosk of Amer, which consists of a square court, formerly adorned with two hundred and thirty columns; but a quarter of a century has, I find, greatly changed this interesting edifice, for many columns are fallen down, and the whole mosk seems crumbling into dust. There are many interesting circular and pointed arches. Prophecy foretells the downfall of Moslem power whenever this mosk decays; but though it is sadly changed since I saw it last—principally, they say, from the effect of two earthquakes (eight and thirteen years ago)—the rule of the Moslem is unshaken.

Near the southern entrance are two columns, ten inches apart, which, it is said, no one but a true believer in the Koran and the Prophet can succeed in passing. As the guides have now corrupted the

tradition into a belief that those who can get through them will go to Heaven, most ladies who are not encumbered with too much crinoline make the attempt.

The extensive mounds round Old Cairo, annoying for the dust they create, are the remains of the ancient city of Fostat and the Roman fort. As they afford no shade, this excursion should be made in a carriage, which costs eight shillings.

A few minutes' sail from Old Cairo is the Island of Rhoda, which used to be worth seeing for its beautiful gardens; but, since the death of the superintendent, Mr. Trail, a Scotchman, it has lost its chief attraction. Ibrahim Pasha had a palace there; and the views of Cairo are interesting.

A succession of palaces is seen on the east bank of the river, some of them of tolerable architecture. Manufactories, with their lofty chimneys, and, in the distance, the citadel, with its mosk, and the range of Mokattam Mountains, form a fine background to the crowds of gay and shabby boats which line the bank of the river. Among about a score of smart dahabeeahs, belonging to the Turkish grandees, with their pennants displaying the crescent, I distinguished the flags of several European travellers. The river was enlivened with numerous boats, of all sizes, going at a great rate, with a southerly breeze and a strong current.

The foreground to this view consisted of small,

rude Arab boats, crowded to excess with picturesque peasants, male and female, tracking up the river. When we anchored there, on my last visit to Egypt, waiting for a favourable breeze, no efforts of our sailors could prevent these boats rubbing against ours, to the destruction of our fresh paint; and one boat knocked down one of the iron staunchions of the awning of our quarter-deck, and smashed a couple of windows, reminding me to prepare for similar accidents, and take a few spare panes of glass up the country with me, where it is rarely to be got.

In the Island of Rhoda is the celebrated Mekkeeas, or Nilometer, erected, it is supposed, in the early part of the ninth century. It has the appearance of a large square well, the sides of which are ornamented with arched recesses and inscriptions. In the centre is an octangular column, sixteen cubits high, from the base to the capital, and formed, they say, of five pieces of stone, three of which were visible when I saw it. It has been so much injured by accidents and time, and there was always so much trickery in its management, being used rather to deceive than to guide people, that little reliance can be placed in the statements about it. I was told, thirty years ago, that the water should rise to half the height of the beam to be a good Nile.

Shoobra.

The gardens of Shoobra, a delightful ride of about four miles from Cairo, may be visited in a carriage, or quite as pleasantly, and much cheaper, on donkeys, as the road to them lies entirely through a beautiful shady avenue of acacia and sycamore trees, affording, occasionally, refreshing views of the Nile, with the pyramids in the distance, and numerous white villas and palaces—among others, one of Abbas Pasha's mother and sister.

An order from the Consul procured us access to the gardens, which, though rather stiff, are pretty. Anything green is delightful in such a climate as this. Chinese multiflora roses, geraniums, orange and lemon trees, and noble specimens of acacias, form their chief attraction. There is, however, a great want of flowers, which, at a slight expense and little trouble, might be raised in abundance.

The great attraction consists of an immense marble basin, and round it is a covered corridor with kiosks projecting into the water, tastefully decorated by Italian artists. Furnished with divans aud lighted with gas, it would remind one almost of a scene from the "Arabian Nights." The harem of Mohammed Ali used to row him about there in a boat. On the other side of the garden is a beautiful kiosk, paved with Oriental alabaster, with a fountain in the centre.

The College of Dervishes.

Every Friday, at two o'clock, is the time to visit the Kasr el Ainee, or the College of the Dervishes, the monks and freemasons of the East. Few of them are distinguished by their dress; two or three had high caps and long robes, and several of them had long hair, reaching almost to their waists, which, when dishevelled by their exertions, gave them a wild and uncouth appearance.

The Sheakh of the dervishes, a grave and dignified-looking man, wore a white turban; and some Sheakhs, who were his assistants, had green ones. The others, about thirty in number, wore the usual Oriental costumes. Some richly-dressed Turks occasionally took part in the proceedings.

The dervishes formed a ring; and the Sheakh set them a-going, moving his head backwards and forwards, beginning with a low grunt, and ending in a most unmistakeable howl. They continued this painful movement of the head, backwards and forwards, increasing gradually its rapidity, for nearly an hour; some bursting out into wild exclamations, and others throwing themselves on the ground. Drums and pipes assisted to increase their excitement, and to render them unconscious of the world around them. There appears to be something catching in the mania, as I observed several grave-looking Turks, who were

there merely as spectators like ourselves, moving their heads like the dervishes.

These men have no pretensions to be called "dancing dervishes," who whirl round and round with arms extended, but "howling dervishes" they may certainly be called, "There is but one God, and Mohammed is his prophet," being the burden of their song.

Formerly they used to cut themselves with knives, which are hung up round the walls of the building, but which they are now forbidden to touch, on account of the barbarous use they made of them. This is a sight which, once seen, few would wish to see again, as, from the long continuance, it is monotonous in the extreme.

An excursion should be made to the camp and hospital of Abouzaleel and the obelisk of Heliopolis. I did not inquire, on my last visit to Egypt, whether this hospital, like many other establishments, has been abandoned by the successors of Mohammed Ali. Whether or not, I shall leave the description as a tribute to a man whose crimes have, I fear, survived his merits.

We were three hours in going: we stayed two hours there, and were four hours in returning, as we visited the tree under which the Virgin Mary is said to have reposed on her flight into Egypt, and also the obelisk at Metareeh, the only important remains of the ancient city of Heliopolis, the seat of learning

in Egypt, until Alexandria, under the patronage of the Ptolemies, surpassed her rival.

That the Holy Virgin may have reposed on the spot is possible, though not probable; but this fig-sycamore tree does not seem to be above three hundred years old. The hieroglyphics on the obelisk, which are very perfect and very beautiful, contain the name and titles of Osirtisen I. Adjoining are mounds of ruins, of no great extent. The obelisk is about half-way to the camp. We only skirted the desert, having, generally, at a short distance from us, cultivated land that extends to the river.

We passed several large encampments of Bedouins. When stationary for a long time in a place, they surround their tents with a palisade of sugar-canes, to protect them from the wind and cold.

At the camp there were few soldiers; but the hospital fully recompensed us for our journey. Tyrant as he was, Mohammed Ali did much to improve the people. He disciplined the troops; and so great was his desire to spread education, that he established schools, civil and military, where not only the students were clothed and fed, but also received gratuities of more than a dollar a month, according to the progress that they made.

Attached to this hospital was a college of medicine, containing two hundred and fifty students. The wards of the hospital were exceedingly clean, and ad-

mirably ventilated; and I was very much gratified at the cleanliness of the whole establishment. There was a physician, generally French, for each disease. There was also an apothecary's shop, a botanical garden well supplied with plants; a lecture and dissecting-room. In the lecture-room a French professor was lecturing on a skull, and an Arab interpreting to a crowd of students. The head physician, a Frenchman, conducted us round the establishment, and showed us every civility.

Festivals of Cairo.

The festivals of Cairo are very interesting, but travellers, spending almost all their time on the Nile, have seldom an opportunity of seeing them.

The Mooled el Hassaneyn is a grand festival, to celebrate the birth of El Hassaneyn, whose head is buried in his mosk, and, except the Mooled of the Prophet, excels everything of the kind celebrated in Cairo. I witnessed it on the last and best night—Tuesday, the 7th of November. It was almost a scene from the Arabian Nights.

After driving through dark and narrow streets, deserted, except by a few straggling passengers, each with his long paper lantern, carried by himself or his servant, we burst into long bazaars, brilliantly illuminated by a line of entirely glass chandeliers, lighted with oil; the smallest had from thirty

to forty lights, the largest about two hundred. I observed two with fourteen rows of lights, having the appearance of so many chandeliers, one above another. The stems and designs of these chandeliers were almost always beautiful. At the base there was generally a large globe of glass, pure as crystal, about six to nine inches in diameter. Above these were similar globes, or sometimes half-globes, coloured gold, blue and red. The chandeliers appeared to be what we should call in Europe old Venetian glass, and lighted up admirably the beautiful street architecture, the glorious white and red mosks with their picturesque doors and minarets, and the elegant fountains. Awnings of various colours covered portions of the bazaars, giving a gay and tent-like appearance to the scene.

It was, however, the people that interested me most. The bazaars and streets appeared a sea of white turbans, not one in a hundred wearing only the red tarboosh. The shops or stalls were all lighted up, and the citizens were seated on the benches before them, often on Persian carpets, smoking their pipes. Fickees were reciting the whole of the Koran; many were listening, whilst grey-beards, with spectacles on their noses, were reading portions of the sacred volume, making prayers and recitals for the sake of El Hassaneyn.

Our readers, at a prayer-meeting, would be rather astonished if any of those present pulled out cigars,

and enveloped themselves in smoke, as the Captain of Knockdunder—in "The Heart of Mid-Lothian"—"lighted his pipe, and smoked with infinite composure during the whole time of the sermon," to the great horror of David Deans.

Some of the largest shops were tastefully decorated with silk. In several there were dervishes, shaking their heads, and shouting "Allah," at a rate that must exhaust their lungs before daylight dawns and the festival ends.

There was a great variety of costume. The rich Turks wore their nizam dresses, of various colours, and the wild Bedoueen their gay and fanciful costumes; but the great majority were dressed in blue dresses, often covering vests of rich materials, their head-dress consisting of a red cap with white turbans, frequently of immense size.

Then there were people singing to instruments, drums, hautboys, and cymbals; men reciting tales and portions of favourite authors; the confectioners' stalls and cafés, picturesquely decorated.

The entrance into the Mosk Hassaneyn was very crowded, and dervishes were performing zikrs in the portico. The crowd was so immense I did not try to enter it, nor would it have been prudent in a European dress to make the attempt.

It appears, from Lane, there is little worth seeing except dervishes eating burning coals. "One seized

a piece of live charcoal, which he put into his mouth, then did the same with another, another, and another, until his mouth was full; when he deliberately chewed these live coals, opening his mouth very wide every moment, to show its contents; which, after about three minutes, he swallowed. And all this he did without evincing the slightest symptom of pain; appearing during the operation, and after it, even more lively than before." *

We went through the narrow streets and bazaars in a carriage. It would have been impossible to drive through such a crowd in England, but they divided themselves often into six or eight rows deep on each side of our vehicle. I watched their faces narrowly, and I am sure I must have seen thirty or forty thousand men, but I did not observe a single appearance of annoyance, or hear one rude expression.

We must recollect that most of the people there knew that a few years ago there were no such things in Cairo as carriages. They were celebrating their most solemn festival, the chief business of the evening being to listen to the Koran, and this must have been sadly interrupted by the disturbance of the men who went before the carriage to clear the way, and yet not one sign of impatience did I observe. It was impossible to have a more remarkable instance of the feeling of the inhabitants of Cairo towards

* Lane, vol. ii., p. 213.

Christians, and of that imperturbable good-humour which is the characteristic of the modern Egyptians when treated as men, and their customs and religion respected.

The minarets had only a few lamps around them; if these had been sufficient to mark out their architecture, as at St. Peter's at Rome, the illumination would have been perfect.

The Mooled E-Nebee, the festival of the birth of the prophet, is considered finer still, but is seldom seen by travellers. On my first visit to Egypt, rambling one day in the Esbekeeh, watching the conjurers and mountebanks playing their tricks, I witnessed the most extraordinary scene of this festival called the *Doseh*. Above two hundred men, chiefly dervishes, flung themselves full length on the ground, their backs upward, and so close as to form a pavement. Some dervishes, with drums, ran over them first, as if to ascertain that no portion of earth was uncovered, and then the Sheakh el Bekree, the chief of the dervishes, rode over them. The men on the ground were muttering Allah, Allah, but not one screamed, and when it was over such a crowd of their friends immediately surrounded them, that I could not observe if the miracle had succeeded and all were uninjured. There are many other festivals, particularly the departure of the pilgrims to Mecca, which I have not seen.

CHAPTER III.

The Railway to Suez—Passage of the Red Sea by the Israelites—Wells in the Desert—Description of Suez—The Bazaar—Signor Marietti's Museum of Egyptian Antiquities—Remarkable Objects—Collection of Divinities—Gold Ornaments of the Ancient Egyptians—The Sphinx—The Pyramids of Meroe and of Geezeh—View from the Summit of the Highest Pyramid—Galleries and Chambers of the Interior—The Second Pyramid—The Third Pyramid—Tombs near the Pyramids—Remarkable Sculptures illustrative of Egyptian Life and Manners—Native Guides.

LEAVING Cairo in the railway train, we were immediately in the desert, having the citadel and Mokattam hills on our right, and on our left cultivated land, which gradually receded. In three quarters of an hour we came to a high range of sand-hills, which appeared to want only a wind to overwhelm the numerous caravans on the road, and even the railway also. In a quarter of an hour we passed this range, and our route lay over an uninteresting desert to Ronbirket, an hour and three quarters from Cairo, where we halted a few minutes.

About five hours after starting, we stopped at Wafy—like all the stations, a miserable place—our

route crossing a flat, uninteresting, generally reddish-coloured desert, except where occasionally the colouring was varied by large tracts of deep and light grey, from the gravel, often streaked with sand, which covered the desert.

We saw a mirage, which, with its reflection of the hills, was beautiful; but far more beautiful was the first view of the Red Sea, from the brilliant contrast of its deep blue waters to the light-coloured sand of the desert.

The railway makes many awkward curves in descending to Suez, but is otherwise very creditable to the Pasha's government, and a great boon to our Indian travellers. I quite agree with Wilkinson and others, who consider that the place where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea to escape from the Egyptians was at the ford a short distance to the east of the modern town, which I saw camels fording on their way to the fountain of El Ghurkudeh. There are two fords the camels have to pass. The first is to the north-west. The second is reached after crossing a long sandy island. An east wind would swell these fords immensely. This wind rises here very suddenly, and sometimes it is very strong, increasing to a prodigious extent the depth of the waters.

It is not likely Moses would have been so bad a pilot as to have passed the ford, and, as some suppose, never have attempted to pass the gulph until where

it was ten to twelve miles broad, nor is it likely that the Egyptians would have followed them at such a place; but seeing that the Israelites passed the usual ford safely, not suspecting a miracle, they would naturally follow them.

Moses' wells are about three hours distant from Suez, when the wind is strong and favourable; and the difficulty of returning (which is often great) may be avoided by sending donkeys from Suez. It is generally necessary to wade or be carried through the water for a quarter of a mile, and they are about three miles distant from the water. There are six wells, all brackish but one, which is tolerably sweet. I was not able to go there, but it was described to me as a little oasis in the desert, teeming with fruits, flowers, orange lemon trees, and vegetables in great profusion, doubly interesting from the contrast to the terrible wilderness which surrounds it.

Suez has always been described as a wretched, miserable little place, but it is not without interest. It gives you the impression of a town which had seen better days, and was almost crumbling into dust, but is now patched up again, to bask in a brighter gleam of prosperity than it has enjoyed for ages. There are a number of good houses, two stories high, with wooden-latticed windows, of frequently very tasteful designs, which are most picturesque, though now sadly ruined.

The bazaar is large and crowded, and though almost everything comes from Egypt, the shops are better than in the provincial towns of that country. The display of cutlery was very brilliant, more attractive than diamonds to the Bedouins of the neighbourhood. The hotel is rather dearer (eleven shillings a day) than Shepheard's, but far more comfortable; and the climate is so fine, and the air from the desert so pure, invalids would find it a good place for the winter.

The Museum of Egyptian antiquities collected by Signor Marietti, and now very well arranged at Boolak, is well worth visiting. If a good catalogue were made of it (which I hear the present Pasha has ordered), stating the places where the antiquities were found, the interest in them would be increased, and they would be a good introduction to the study of Egyptian art, and especially useful to the many travellers who begin their voyage of the Nile without having given the least attention to the subject. I will briefly mention the principal objects deserving notice.

A granite sarcophagus, with the name of Shofo, the builder of the great pyramid, upon it; two kitchens, with the prenomen of Amun-m-he I.; a very fine figure in basalt, with the name of Rekof, an early king, found in the tombs near the Pyramids; a stella, with the name of Amun-m-he II.; an

admirable large alabaster statue, with a pedestal which appears to me not to belong to it. There are several fine mummies in this room, of different periods; a large faulchion, and curious silver ornaments; a splendid set of vases of the Genii of Amente, and an exquisite little vase, of variegated coloured glass. Among the pretty collection of bronzes, a Typhonian figure is very remarkable —a bear erect, with its forepaws reared, seated on an Egyptian capital of the papyrus form, with a portion of the shaft for pedestal.

The collections of little divinities and emblems in the cases are curious and well arranged. The rich collections of gold ornaments will attract the attention of every visitor, and undoubtedly give us a very high idea of the luxury and elegance of the ancient Egyptians. Among these treasures will be observed a very elegant necklace, with ten rows of ornaments —one of jackals seated, another of alternately lions and antelopes, the last row consisting of the papyrus capitals reversed; two large heads of Horus form the clasps. There is a beautiful gold faulchion bearing the royal name; gold and silver models of boats; elegant bracelets; gold figures on a blue ground, representing the spirits, and the king on his knees before Seb with the attributes of Osiris; magnificent breast ornaments of serpents; mirrors, chiefly of gold, a beautiful gold dagger, rings, pins, and a

variety of other ornaments in exquisite taste, which I need not describe more minutely, as they were exhibited, I am told, in the Egyptian court of the International Exhibition last year.

It is a long ride, and a very fatiguing day's work, to visit the Pyramids in the autumn. Travellers should therefore postpone this excursion until their return from their voyage up the Nile; and it will save much fatigue if they start from and return to their boat.

In March, an hour and a half's donkey-ride through flourishing villages, rich plains, and often forests of noble palms, brought us to the Sphinx, which we could almost imagine seated there in calm dignity watching our arrival—the venerable guardian of these mighty sepulchres. Mighty indeed they appeared, towering above the picturesque groups of lofty date trees, their effect and great height being increased by their being built in a part of the dreary and barren wilderness elevated a hundred feet above the rich and luxuriant plain.

On my return from the Pyramids of Ethiopia, I observed that notwithstanding the immense superiority in size of the pyramids of Egypt, those of the Upper Country have now a decided superiority as regards their form and architectural beauty. The elegant porticoes and the rims of smooth stones still remaining at the angles of the Pyramids of Meroe, give them a

great advantage over the Pyramids of Geezeh, now stripped of their casings. The Pyramids of Meroe, however, only excite our admiration as specimens of ornamental architecture, and create little surprise on account of their dimensions. These vast edifices fill you with amazement, their immensity exceeding all the ideas it is possible to have conceived of them.

When by chance you observe the pigmy dimensions of persons standing near them, or of Arabs, or travellers climbing to the summit, scarcely covering a stone or two of their vast mass, and when you reflect that the largest of these edifices is now seven hundred and forty-six feet square, and four hundred and fifty feet high, that there are 85,000,000 cubic feet of masonry in one Pyramid, and that there is stone sufficient in these three Pyramids to construct a city of considerable dimensions, palaces, public buildings, houses, and even walls, you then may form a correct notion of the immense labour, wealth, and materials spent on their construction.

Then their vast antiquity is imposing. The names of the kings Shofo and Nou-Shofo, of the fourth dynasty, who are supposed to have reigned 2,400 years B.C., were found by Colonel Vyse painted as quarry marks on stones in the great Pyramid, and may still be seen in the tombs adjoining most recently opened. These are, therefore, the most ancient monuments in the valley of the Nile; for, I must now

confess, I was wrong in supposing the Pyramids of Ethiopia to be more ancient, and that the knowledge of the arts descended instead of ascending the river.

I shall follow always the dates of Wilkinson, which appear to me to be the safest. I have read the able works of Rosellini and Bunsen, but I think the time is not come for adopting the conclusions of the latter. The materials, though annually increasing, are still insufficient for us to decide that the lists of Eratosthenes are chronological, and those of Manetho simply historical. The field of the Pyramids has yielded to enterprising excavators royal names, corresponding to a surprising number in the lists of the early dynasties, proving beyond a doubt that they are not mythological. Those of the two Shofos and Mencheres, the builders of the three great Pyramids of Geezeh, invest with a marvellous halo these world-renowned monuments; but surely it is better to wait for clearer and more decisive evidence before we admit a chronology which makes the world so much older. I say this with great deference—*non nostrum tantas componere lites.*

It appears, however, very certain from the discovery of royal names in and around the different groups of Pyramids, that all those sepulchres, about sixty in number, were erected before the reign of the thirteenth dynasty, which commenced, according to Wilkinson, 1860 B.C.; and that the largest, if not all

of them, were tombs of Pharaohs who reigned over Egypt.

The height of the great Pyramid, when entire, according to Colonel Vyse, was four hundred and eighty feet, and its present height, as I have said, four hundred and fifty feet. The blocks diminish in size towards the summit; the lowest fifty rows of stones measure 138 feet 3 inches; the second fifty, 113 feet 4 inches; the third fifty, 108 feet 2 inches; the fourth, 89 feet 11 inches; the last row three feet six inches high—two hundred and one rows of stones measuring 453 feet 2 inches.

The ascent on the east side, even for ladies with tolerable nerves, is not difficult, having the assistance of the Arabs. The view from the summit is extensive, but cannot be called very fine. The principal points are Cairo and its environs, the Mokattam hills, and the river and its verdant banks. On the other sides the Pyramids of Sakkara, Dashoor, and Abooseer, and the bleak and terrible wilderness.

The entrance of the great Pyramid, (and of the others) is on the north side, but not exactly in the centre, being three hundred and eighty feet six inches, from the east angle, and three hundred and ninety-seven feet from the north-west angle. Over the entrance are two immense masses of stone resting against each other, forming a pent roof arch.

I shall not trouble the reader with details and

measurements of the interior, which have been given so often. In the first gallery, which descends at an angle of twenty-seven degrees, will be observed the beautiful manner in which the masses of calcareous stone are smoothed and united together. The second gallery, which ascends at the same angle, has also been highly finished, but is now much broken, but broken regularly. These breakings facilitate the ascent to the high gallery, the sides of which are formed of eight slabs, each slab overlapping the one beneath it. The ascent of this at the same angle is perfectly easy. There are benches at each side of this gallery with holes in them, made, no doubt, like the others I have mentioned, for raising the sarcophagus.

Two galleries lead from the high gallery to rooms, the one at the top to the King's chamber, where are now the remains of the granite sarcophagus. The flat roof of this room is formed of seven immense blocks of granite, and the halves of two others are visible. In the side walls are small holes, which have now been ascertained to be tubes to conduct air into the interior of the pyramids.

There are five very low rooms, the highest with a pent roof, exactly above this, only made to protect the royal chamber from the great weight of masonry. Ladders would be required to visit them. A flat gallery leads from the bottom of the high gallery to a room called the Queen's chamber, which is exactly in

the centre of the Pyramid, and has a pent roof. The masonry of this room is also admirable. Few will attempt to descend the shaft, and examine the other galleries in the Pyramid. It is the admirable specimens we have in these rooms and galleries, of the masonry of the Egyptians, at that very early period, which excite our wonder and admiration.

The second Pyramid measures now at the base six hundred and ninety feet, and the height is four hundred and forty-seven feet, six inches. This Pyramid is remarkable for about a quarter of its stone casing remaining at the top. Around the Pyramid are immense quantities of granite scattered about. The chambers opened by Belzoni were rather difficult to pass. An inclined gallery led into a flat one, the entrance of which was stopped by a mass of granite. A passage cut through this impediment led into a gallery. After a short distance there was a descent to another gallery, which apparently led under the other, but was then closed. The principal gallery led into a granite chamber with a pent roof. Another and easy entrance has now been made sixty feet above Belzoni's, and the latter has been laid completely open by Colonel Vyse.

The third Pyramid, opened by Colonel Vyse, measures now at its base 333 feet, and its present height is 203 feet. It must have been far more elegant, as Pliny says, having been cased with granite, of which

there are still some remains. The entrance is now very striking, from the immense blocks of granite scattered about. A very small hole leads into a gallery lined with granite, now much corroded. In the chamber, which has a pent roof, was found a sarcophagus, containing the coffin of Mycerinus, or Mencheres, third king of the fourth dynasty, the lid of which is now in the British Museum, where also the corpse of the good king rests in peace.

It will be observed that this Pyramid shows how it was built in perpendicular stories, like the Pyramids of Abooseer and Sakkara; and it is supposed that all the Pyramids were built in the same way, and the triangular spaces afterwards filled up, and thus finished from the top to the bottom, as Herodotus states. This Pyramid is supposed to have been finished by the beautiful Queen Nitokris.

The Sphinx is now lamentably injured; but, at a distance, its expression may still be seen. It is described to be Egyptian in features, but, I must confess, the cheek bones appear to me higher and more African than any Egyptian statue I ever saw. With the exception of its fore-legs, it was cut out of the solid rock, in which chambers may, perhaps, still be found. The sand has again covered it up to the breast. Traces of the red colouring can still be distinguished. The body may be seen for a considerable length; but in its present formless state, if it

were not for the head, it would be taken for a mass of broken rock. Wilkinson thinks it was probably constructed by Thothmes III., but the only names found on it, when cleared, were those of his successors, Thothmes IV. and Rameses II.

Tombs near the Pyramids.

I shall refer to the hand-book for the numerous ruins, small Pyramids, temples, and tombs, surrounding the three great pyramids, merely briefly mentioning a few of the tombs best worth seeing, and recently opened.

A few paces from the Sphinx is Campbell's tomb, excavated by Colonel Vyse. It consists of a pit 53 feet deep, surrounded by a trench 68 feet square, and 73 feet deep. You see at the bottom a stone sarcophagus, most imposing in the distance, and at the sides of this great excavation are two other sarcophagi.

Two hundred feet south-south-east of the Sphinx is a splendid tomb, opened by Marietti, rich in granite and alabaster, but without hieroglyphics. West of the great Pyramid is a tomb, with well-executed hieroglyphics, containing the name of Shofo. This tomb, which is very small, still retains its colouring; but the subjects of the sculpture are merely offerings, with the description of them in hieroglyphics above. There are some oxen and goats well drawn. The

figures are in slight relief, and their execution, though not the best, exhibit at that early period—2,400 B.C.—no indication of their being done when Art was in its infancy.

Adjoining the latter tomb is another one, opened, it is said, by Lepsius. In the front little room, I copied the name of Nou-Shofo, also found in one of the small rooms of the great Pyramid, whom Wilkinson considers to have shared the throne with Shofo. The sculptures, which are much injured, represent offerings—among other presents, wild oxen—and also representations of carpenters at work. This room leads into a gallery, with the roof formed of large stones, cut in the shape of an arch. On the left side are figures slaughtering cattle, and also offerings. This gallery leads into another little room, in which I copied the name of Shofo. The sculptures retain considerable traces of colour, and represent long-horned oxen, and various offerings of geese and gazelles. Though the names of these early kings remain, the portraits appear, in almost every instance, to have been wilfully destroyed.

A little distance from the south-east angle of the second Pyramid are several tombs, too much injured to interest the generality of travellers. In one, containing only hieroglyphics, I copied the name of Rekof, given by Wilkinson. I heard of another

tomb well worth visiting, but now occupied by a Dervish, who will not allow any one to see it.

The inhabitants of the village adjoining the Pyramids reap a famous harvest from the crowds of travellers from Cairo, particularly from those who show any fear of them. The way to deal with these men is to avoid striking them, but to be firm, and oppose the least attempt at imposition. Reward them fairly and even liberally, according to the time they serve you, but never increase what you have given them, on account of their threats or their entreaties. There are still, I hear, some bad characters amongst them, but they are now kept in better order than they used to be.

The first time I visited the great Pyramid, in order to stay a long time inside it I stripped myself almost naked, and gave my arms, clothes, and a valuable watch to my Arab servant. When I came out my servant gave me my arms and clothes, but when I asked for my watch, he said he had given it to the Sheakh, who appeared confused, and pretended to search for it, but declared he had not got it. I drew a pistol from my belt, and levelled it at his head, and in an instant the rascal gave me my watch.

CHAPTER IV.

A Journey to the Fyoom—Ruins of Memphis—Statue of Rameses II. — The Pyramids of Sakkara—Examination of One—Mummy Pits of the Ibis and other Animals—Interior of a Tomb—The Pyramids of Dashoor—Crossing the Desert—Medeeneh, the Capital of the Fyoom—The Water of the Nile—The Fyoom the Garden of Egypt—Discovery of the Locality of Lake Mœris—Remains of Crocodilopolis—Reception by the Governor of the Village of Metaret—Hospitality of the Sheakh el Bellard—Arrival at Senhoor—Excursion to the Village of Fedanir—A Travelling Guard—Encampment of Bedouin Arabs—A Picturesquely-dressed Bedouin—The Village of Nesleh—Visits of Invalids—A Bedouin Musician—The Ruins of Kasr el Bint—A Desert formerly Cultivated—The Ruins of Kasr Kharoon—An Ancient Tomb—Remains of the Chief Temple of the Fyoom—A Primitive Boat—An Inharmonious Crew—The Desert Island of El Korn—Limits of the Lake—Difficulty of Procuring a Guide—Lost in the Desert—Arrival at Cairo—Pyramid marking the Site of the Celebrated Labyrinth.

It is difficult now to meet with the ghost of an adventure, or to see much of Oriental life, in the usual voyage of the Nile, from Cairo to the second cataract; but when we mount a dromedary and penetrate any distance from the river, we find ourselves often among races little changed by the strong governments which

have subdued the spirit and the pride of the Fellaheen—the peasants of the Nile. A journey to the Fyoom may still afford a stirring variety to the monotony of life on the Nile, though not the novelty it was a generation ago, when I made the journey.

On the 30th of July, when most travellers are driven by the great heat to cooler climates, I left Geezeh at three, and passing the large Pyramids of Abooseer, which are well worth visiting, for the Apis Cemetery, discovered since my visit, and following the edge of the desert, arrived at six at the village of Sakkara, a short distance beyond the Pyramids of the same name. My pace having always been the amble of the dromedary, I conceive the distance to be ten miles. I took up my abode with the Sheakh, and, in defiance of fleas, slept sound, after a hot and fatiguing day.

Next morning I mounted my dromedary, and, in an hour, at a quick pace, arrived at the village of Metrahenny. The country, though flat, is beautiful in the extreme. Large fields of doorah were in their full beauty, of a luxuriant green-yellow colour, surrounded by groves of magnificent palm-trees. There is no district richer, or more attractive, than this in the whole valley of the Nile. Splendid palm-trees, generally detached from one another, and unusually tall, are planted in the form of avenues. There is also a verdure and freshness here at this season—August—when other

lands in the East are generally dried up, which was grateful in the extreme.

Memphis was annually protected from the inundations of the river by canals, reservoirs, and embankments. When the city was ruined, these entrenchments and reservoirs were soon, no doubt, destroyed, and the ruins of the city covered by the inundations of the river. Vast quantities of the materials were probably carried away. I have observed numerous fragments of them in Cairo and the adjoining villages. There are still some remains of the ancient metropolis. Besides some brick ruins of little importance, there is a splendid fragment of a statue, in calcareous stone, of Rameses II., now lying a considerable depth beneath the level of the ground, with its face downwards, but, nevertheless, well preserved—the body part is very perfect. The figure is in the usual position, its arms on each side, with a scroll in its hands. The statue is broken below the calf of the leg. Some few bits of the fragments of the legs and feet were, when I saw it, scattered about. The length of the statue, from the top of the head to the end of the hand, is twenty-five feet six inches; the length of what is entire, thirty-six feet; the head and mitre measure nine feet, without the beard, which is three feet long. The situation of the statue, so much buried in the soil, sufficiently explains why no other remains of Memphis are visible. Mr. Horner's agent ascertained

the depth of the accumulation of soil near this statue to be nine feet, being, within a fraction, three and a half inches to a century. He found there were thirty feet of the same soil under the statue, and from the lowest part the instrument brought up pottery, recording, as he conceives, the existence of man 13,371 years before A.D. 1854. Discoveries of burnt brick have been made at a greater depth in other localities, nearly the same latitude, in Egypt; but few persons who are well acquainted with this country, and the capriciousness of the Nile deposits, would place much reliance on such calculations, ignorant as we are what may have been the rate of accumulation in the more remote ages, and what accidents may have accelerated it in different places. The statue is surrounded by fields of doorah, and by the noble palm-trees which now adorn the site of this celebrated city. It is, probably, one of the four statues which, according to Diodorus, were erected before the great Temple of Ptah.

The town of Metrahenny is in the distance, and there are traces of canals and embankments on the road to Dashoor. I went from Metrahenny to the Pyramids of Sakkara, situated three-quarters of a mile from the village of that name.

The one I entered is constructed of stone, and in five stages, the triangular portions not being filled up. In the Pyramid are chambers. The first I entered,

forty feet long, was extremely difficult to pass. I then descended fourteen steps, making fourteen feet, each step being about a foot, and entered into another gallery, thirty-three feet long; and then descended four steps into a third gallery, sixty feet long. This gallery leads into another, forty feet long and three feet wide. At the end of this fourth gallery are two passages, one leading towards the east, the other towards the west. Taking the former, which continues for twenty-seven feet, we came into another gallery, twenty feet long. At the end of this sixth gallery, is a chamber twenty feet square, in a rough state, in which I observed fragments of granite lying about.

Having returned to where, as I mentioned above, there are two galleries, leading east and west, I found that the gallery towards the west extends for twenty-three feet, and leads into another having the usual direction, north to south. I continued along this from sixty to seventy feet, and, feeling my respiration difficult, and having a long way to return, I proceeded no further. The Arabs informed me it extended an immense distance, but that there was no chamber.

Near the Pyramids are many pits of the ibis and other animals, and an innumerable quantity of small tombs. The only one then worth seeing was to the east of the great Pyramid. The front room contains six pilasters, which form three

naves; the roof of the centre one is hollowed into the shape of an arch, and covered with smooth-cut stones, about six or eight inches thick, kept together by lateral pressure and cement. This arch was covered with sculpture of the time of Psammitichus; it leads into a room of the most highly-finished style, but the sculpture is not very pure. There is a deep well in this room, and on each side of it are lateral chambers; the subjects of the sculpture are not particularly interesting—men carrying birds, &c.; but there are numerous tablets of hieroglyphics. Since my visit great discoveries have been made here by Mr. Perring.

The next day I left Sakkara, in the morning, at break of day, and, riding hard, arrived in two hours at the Pyramids of Dashoor.

The first Pyramid we arrived at is seven hundred feet square, and its present height three hundred and twenty feet. It had originally a smooth casing of stone, but now it is almost destroyed. The entrance into the Pyramid, now opened, was then covered with rubbish and stones. The second Pyramid is about six hundred feet square, and two hundred and fifty high. This also has been much injured. On the north side there is an entrance into the interior, twenty-eight feet above the ground. The ascent to the entrance was not very difficult, but the descent particularly so, as it is almost perpendicular, and

there are very small holes for the feet. The Arabs assisted me over the easy part, but where I really required assistance it was as much as they could do to take care of themselves. The entrance, which is five feet six inches by six feet, leads into a passage three feet six inches square. This extends for seemingly a great distance. I penetrated one hundred and eighty feet, and then found the passage completely closed up with sand and stones. This gallery is cased with calcareous stone, highly polished. The inclination of the gallery is very rapid.

At a short distance from this Pyramid are two brick ones. It is difficult to judge what has been the size of the one I visited, as it is now an immense mass of ruins, but Colonel Vyse says it measured originally three hundred and fifty feet square, and was two hundred and fifteen feet high. It is probably the brick Pyramid of Asychis; the bricks contain more straw than is usually seen. The false Pyramid is, as its name indicates, more imposing at a distance than on approaching it, and is rarely visited, being generally considered not worth the trouble.

I arrived at the village of Dashoor at one, and reposed there until four in the afternoon, and then started for the Fyoom. We were eight hours, at the rate of nearly four miles an hour, in crossing the desert, and arriving at the first village of the Fyoom. We had some difficulty in procuring an entrance into

the caravansary, to repose for a few hours. This small desert is difficult to cross during the night without a good guide. Fortunately we met a courier who knew the road; otherwise we should have been obliged to confine our pace to that of the caravan of donkeys which crosses the desert every evening. I found that the habeer or guide whom I had engaged to show me the road, had never once been at the Fyoom, and was one of the most stupid of the Arab race. We passed in the desert a small caravan that fancied they had lost their road, and were sleeping until the morning.

Starting the next day at sunrise, we passed several modern villages, and the sites of several ancient ones. A short distance from Medeeneh we met the Mahmoor, the governor of the district, and, after the usual compliments, he invited me to return with him, but I excused myself until the next day.

Medeeneh, the capital of the Fyoom, I was surprised to find so considerable a city, with so large a bazaar, particularly so crowded a one. The city, surrounded by immense plains, is visible, for a considerable distance, from almost every direction. The brick mounds of Arsinoe, the ancient Crocodilopolis, are very conspicuous. The extent of the mounds, and the elegant remains of ancient sculpture which they contain, are alone sufficient to identify the site of the ancient capital. The modern town, said to

contain ten thousand inhabitants, is rather superior to this class of Arab towns. There is a regularity in the principal streets that gives it very much the appearance of a little capital.

The Bahr-Yoosef flows through the town, and the banks are rather pretty near the bridge. Some authors have said it divides itself into eight canals, but I was told there were as many as fifty canals, which derive their names from the village they furnish with water. They say there are now sixty villages in the Fyoom. When the Nile rises almost the whole country is inundated, and the inhabitants drink of the water of the canals; but when it has retired, for the remainder of the year they drink of the water of the cisterns. The Nile not having as yet risen, I find the water most unpalatable, and it cannot be healthy. Any other water than that of the Nile, exposed, as this is during the summer, in shallow reservoirs and canals, would become perfectly putrid and totally unfit for drinking.

The Fyoom has ever been considered the garden of Egypt, though the desert has been permitted to encroach in every direction. The habitations of men and the roots of the vine are seen in various districts which are now absorbed by the desert. Its fertility is still remarkable. I was told that Mohammed Ali derived from this small province 90,000 ardebs* of barley, 55,000 of wheat, 20,000 of beans, 80,000 of

* An ardeb is nearly five English bushels.

flax, and every month 6,000 pieces of linen, and a great deal of oil. The manufacture of otto of roses, once so celebrated here, was much deteriorated by that Pasha taking it into his own hands.

We met on the road several caravans of donkeys, carrying oil to Cairo, and also flowers and fruit—grapes, and particularly the fruit of the prickly pear, which are here remarkably fine. This is the only province of Egypt where this plant abounds.

I took my lodgings in one of the caravansaries, being more independent than in the house of the Sheakh, and, after dinner, examined the remains of Crocodilopolis. In the modern town I observed several pieces of granite and sandstone, which, no doubt, came from the ancient city. Close to the banks of the Bahr Yoosef I saw a fragment of a granite column five feet six inches in diameter I then went to the north of the modern city, where there is a vast extent of mud ruins. I came first to a solid mass of stone cut in a semi-circular shape, and about fourteen feet high; the exterior was covered with cement, the surface of the interior was rugged and broken, but I could trace the legs of six colossal statues. Close adjoining was the fragment of a monolithic column of calcareous stone. Among the ruins of some brick houses I observed a curious fragment of light rose-coloured granite; and I then came to a fragment of a statue of sandstone.

Almost at the northern extremity of the ruins was a beautiful fragment, in rose-coloured granite, of a seated statue. The sculpture of the kilt, head, and hands was excellent; the legs were then partly buried. The hieroglyphics were defaced, but, from the few I made out, it appeared to me to be of an old king. From another beautiful fragment of granite I copied the name of Rameses II., and there were pieces of columns scattered about. My impression was that excavations might be of great service, as every fragment then exposed was of good style.

When I was in the Fyoom the sites of the Lake Mœris and of the Labyrinth were undiscovered. It was near the village of El Eslam and the Bahr Bela Ma that Linant Bey discovered the site of the celebrated Lake Mœris. Near the Bahr el Nesleh it was thirty feet wide, and thirty-seven feet high. This renowned lake, fed by the Bahr Yoosef, called, from its great size, an eighth branch of the Nile, from the remains of the dams that have been traced, may have been of vast extent; but there are good reasons for suspecting that the descriptions of it, in ancient authors, are greatly exaggerated, and it may have been chiefly an immense trench conducting the waters of the Nile into what had previously been an imperfectly irrigated region. Wilkinson says that the artificial lake discovered by Linant Bey was the only lake connected with the irrigation of this province in ancient times, and was

constructed by Mœris, or Amun-m-he III., the fifth king of the twelfth dynasty, whose name was also found by the Prussian Commission in the Labyrinth, built by him, with the Pyramid that served as his tomb. As Bunsen says [vol. ii.], the Lake Mœris, the glorious work of the twelfth dynasty, has disappeared, with the exception of some remains of dykes and canals. It is very probable that this great work, and the immense Labyrinth, with its Pyramid, exhausted the resources of the empire, and accounts for its shortly afterwards succumbing, apparently without a struggle, to the Hyksos; and these Shepherd Kings, or Nomad hordes, with the vitality of a hardy and uncorrupted race, reigned over the degenerated Egyptians at Memphis (the more remote districts probably tributary to them), from the twelfth to the eighteenth dynasty,* leaving no records of their civilization, or deference for the religion of the conquered race. As Bunsen [ii., 459] says, no brilliant conquerors, no imperishable monuments to extort the wonder of posterity—on the contrary, a period of misfortune and disgrace.

At sunrise, having, with difficulty, procured a

* A period, according to Lepsius, of five hundred years; according to de Rouget, nineteen hundred years; and according to Bunsen, nine hundred and twenty-two; while Wilkinson, adhering more rigidly to the monuments, with great probability assigns only about three hundred and forty years to this period.

guide, I visited the obelisk two miles west from Medeeneh, and about half a mile from Biggig. It is not, as is usual, square at the base, and is also not pointed at the summit. One of the two pieces it is now divided into, is twenty-two feet six inches long, and seven feet wide. The other is twenty feet long, and, at the base, five feet ten inches broad, and, at the other end, five feet three inches broad, and three feet four inches deep. On the rounded summit is a groove for an ornament. The sculpture is much injured, but I think it contains representations of the gods Mandoo, Ptah, and Amun Ra. The king represented making offerings to the divinities is Osirtasen I. The situation of this obelisk is remarkable, so far distant from Crocodilopolis, in a flat plain, where now no other fragment of antiquity is to be seen. The inundations of the Nile have covered, perhaps, the other remains of the city. The obelisk may have remained standing a considerable time, and thus escaped a similar fate, until, at length, some stronger inundation than usual sapped its foundations. The hand of time has, fortunately, spared the name of the founder of this fine monument, and establishes its place among the oldest antiquities now existing in the valley of the Nile.

Leaving Medeeneh at twelve, I arrived in two hours at the village of Metaret. I there found the Governor encamped in great style. His own

tent consisted of one large audience-room, handsomely furnished with divans and carpets, and behind it were several rooms for the harem. The decorations of the principal tent were green and red. Behind this there were six other white tents, occupied by his suite, cowhasses, cooks, &c. About a dozen horses were tethered, in the usual Turkish way, to stakes in the ground; also a great number of camels for his luggage, and donkeys probably for his harem. A number of loiterers were assembled around the tents —servants, peasants, and petitioners.

He received me with the usual Turkish politeness, and, after coffee and a pipe, gave me a cowhass mounted on horseback, and furnished me with letters to the Sheakh of the village near the lake, to provide me with boats, guides, or whatever I might require; and another to the Sheakh el Arab, the head of the Bedouins.

Having no time to lose, I took leave of the Mahmoor, and, declining his kind invitations, arrived in two hours at Senooris, and was hospitably received there by the Sheakh el Bellad. He gave me a room thirty feet long, and desired me to order what I wished for, and being a jolly fellow, and most decidedly a lover of good cheer, he must, I think, have despised me for preferring a cup of green tea and a few French olives, which I had with me, to a dish of pillaf and a roasted sheep.

The room I occupied is generally shared by all his guests; and, I fear, I must have been voted a bore by about a dozen visitors, who, on my account, had to put up with more indifferent quarters. I saw them from my window, seated in a circle in the court, around a circular table, loaded with a coarse kind of pillaf, after which they despatched a fine fat sheep. Though they had no other beverage than water, a more jolly and merrier party I never saw assembled around good English cheer.

The inhabitants of this village are remarkable for their industry, and consequently wealth. My worthy host has the character of being very rich, and seemed to have great delight in exercising the hospitalities his situation enforced upon him. With a good house, horses, and harem, and in the enjoyment of health, and esteemed by all, who so happy as the Arab Sheakh?

I set out early the next morning, and in two hours and a half arrived at Senhoor, and went to the house of the chief of the village, having a letter to him from the Mahmoor. He told me that he had no boat to visit the Lake Birket el Korn, but that he would send to an adjoining village to seek for one. In the meantime, I made a little excursion, of five hours, to the village of Fedanir, hoping to discover some antiquities. I only found a few pieces of stone, two and a half feet long, re-

mains, probably, of an ancient village. The banks of the canal were planted very thickly with palm-trees.

Having dined at Senhoor, and finding it impossible to procure a boat there, I determined to make the tour by land. The Sheakh gave me a guard of six men, armed with staves—very necessary in those days, as the plains in this neighbourhood were covered with numerous encampments of the Bedouin Arabs, who had the character, at least from their enemies, of being a bad set, and eager for opportunities of plundering. Their encampments are very picturesque, consisting of coarse tents, at the entrances of which I observed groups of women and children, and sometimes beautiful girls. Around the tents were dogs, flocks of sheep, and sometimes a horse or two, realizing our ideas of patriarchal life.

We were an hour in going from Senhoor to Abuxir, a village surrounded with beautiful plantations. Shortly afterwards we passed a deep rocky bed of a river. I here met a Bedouin on horseback, extremely picturesquely dressed. A gay turban curiously put on, a large white burnous, so arranged as to exhibit to advantage his pistols, gun, and sabre, enhanced the effect of a bold manner and sparkling black eyes. In a tone of voice as of one accustomed to command, and as if he had some notion of commanding my purse, he asked me who I was, and where I was going, and seemed surprised when I told

him to the Sheakh of the Bedouins, but changed his tone a little when informed that I had a letter from the Mahmoor, and was a traveller.

We were an hour and a half in going from the village of Abuxir to the village of Nesleh, which is situated in the centre of an immense plain sloping down from it on every side. The inhabitants are Bedouins, and, I should conceive, rich, from the immense flocks of sheep, goats, camels, and horses which I observed on the surrounding plain. They were driving some of them into the village for the night. There was also an air of comfort about the houses in the village, which showed that, if their circumstances are not better, their habits are certainly more cleanly than those of the Fellahs. The Sheakh, unfortunately, was not at home, having gone to a village a short distance from there, where he kept his harem; but I was received into his castle, if such I may call his fortified house, and a very good supper was served me.

Several invalids came for medicine; many had really occasion for some, and others were apprehensive of soon becoming unwell. Having cured my cowhass of a bad ophthalmia with my mixture of ten grains of zinc to an ounce of water, and the cowhass having extolled my skill, all the blind and rich in the district assembled around my door, some in confirmed consumption—a very rare disease in

Egypt—and one that was quite blind, as he declared, from the sting of a serpent on his foot.

I received a visit there from one of the musicians of the Bedouins. His instrument was a kind of guitar, with a wooden bowl, covered with a skin, with two strings made of about fifty horse-hairs. He sang one of the war-songs of his tribe. His voice was very melodious, and his countenance expressed great animation. The Bedouins seemed to listen with great delight to his performance.

I left the residence of the Arab Sheakh at sunrise, accompanied by one of the Bedouins as a guide. The first antiquity I arrived at is called the Kasr el Bint—the castle of a girl, a great heiress, who resided there. These ruins are of ancient bricks, which had been covered with cement, and are, most probably, of the time of the Romans. I observed, for almost a mile in extent, fragments of hewn calcareous stone and pottery, which have evidently been the site of some ancient village and edifices. The distance from the lake I should conceive to be about four miles. All this side of the lake is now a desert, but I found in several places, within a few inches of the surface, an excellent soil, undoubtedly once cultivated. The surface is now a reddish-coloured sand, with small flints and quartz occasionally disseminated, and sometimes there are remains of stone buildings.

We then visited the ruins of Kasr Kharoon, the

most important in the Fyoom, about twenty miles distant from the Sheakh's house.

The first ruin I arrived at was a small edifice, I believe a tomb, eighteen feet wide, and twenty feet long, and, including the platform before the entrance, which is six feet long, the total length is twenty-six feet. It is constructed of brick, covered with cement, but the foundations are of stone; the exterior was ornamented with pilasters. Opposite the entrance is a recess, over which is an arch, and on each side is a similar recess, which probably were arched, but are now destroyed. The pavement is flagged, and much injured; and there were cellars, or perhaps a well, underneath.

Four hundred and fifty feet north-west of this ruin is another almost square edifice, resembling the beautiful building at Philæ, generally called Pharaoh's Bed, with four columns on each side; but there are no capitals remaining, nor any sculptures visible. The columns are built in the wall.

Sixty feet distant from this is the chief temple of the Fyoom. The court of the temple is almost entirely destroyed. On each side of the door leading into the interior of the temple was a semi-circular column; part of one is remaining. The breadth of this temple is sixty-three feet, the length ninety-three feet. As a ruin it is rather picturesque. Over the entrance into the interior is the winged globe.

There are four rooms, leading out of each other, the doors, as usual, corresponding; and over each I observed the Egyptian ornaments consisting of the winged globe and serpents. At the end of the inner sanctuary there seem to have been three imitations of monolithic temples, but they are now almost destroyed, and several secret chambers are discovered, which are very curious. Out of the principal four rooms are lateral chambers on both sides, from which are staircases leading to the upper story, which appeared to be another temple, the plan of which was almost similar to the one beneath. In the sanctuary is a recess, and on each side of it are the remains of a figure. One is too much injured to judge what it has been; but the other, though also much injured, has been decidedly that of Sevek, with the crocodile's head. The style of the sculpture is in high relief. All these ruins are Roman.

We went to a village near a canal for the night. The Sheakh, as usual, received me most hospitably, and although, suffering from the extreme heat, I seldom partook myself of his fare, my servants and cowhass made ample amends. He offered me, as usual, a room, but finding that the interior of their houses are, at this season of the year, if not always, full of vermin, I slept in the open air, one of the greatest luxuries in this clime.

At daylight I started for the Lake of Birket el Korn,

two hours distant, and found a boat ready for me, built, in the most primitive manner, of logs of wood, kept together in the shape of a boat by cross pieces, and old rags thrust in between the logs. The rags required to be constantly kept damp, otherwise they would have fallen out. Having, in Upper Nubia, crossed the Nile in many a worse apology for a boat, I had no hesitation in trusting to it. The boat was impelled by two clumsy crooked oars, each worked by six fishermen, whose costumes were very picturesque; their turbans of nets most characteristic of their usual employment. The wind being contrary, the motion of the boat was very disagreeable, and the shouting, bawling, and singing of the rowers was intolerable—decidedly the most inharmonious crew I ever had the misfortune of being in the same boat with.

We were four hours in reaching the wild and desert Island of El Korn. The centre and highest part of the island consists of a ridge of natural rocks. On the west side I saw fragments of stone, bricks, and columns, and the bones of a mummy. I also found traces of six small columns, two feet in diameter.

Adjoining this island is another, much smaller, and without any remains. In this island there is also a range of natural rocks.

The lake is now thirty-five miles long, and seven

miles broad. The eastern side and north end are surrounded by hills that prevent the possibility of the lake having ever been much extended in that direction. Three-fourths of the west side is now a bare desert. The land on the west side rises slightly and gradually from the lake, but it is evident that anciently the lake did not extend higher, as remains of stone buildings exist within a few miles of the water, and there can be no doubt that the lake has not, for a long period, extended beyond its present limits, as I found the stumps of ancient vine-trees within a very short distance from the water. The depth is said not to be very great. Wilkinson found the deepest part to be twenty-eight feet. The water is, at this season, very brackish. This is accounted for by the nitrous quality of the rocks, but it is said that the inundation has the effect of sweetening it to such a degree as to render it sufficiently palatable to the natives.

The next morning I rode, in three hours, from Senhoor to a village near the desert I wished to have reached the night before, but could not induce the peasants of the village to conduct me over the plain after sunset, there being several encampments of the Bedouins on the road. There is a short road from Senhoor, by the mountains, to the Pyramids of Geezeh, but I could not, for any sum, procure guides to conduct me, the Arabs having a bad character. Two

Bedouins agreed to conduct me by that route to the Fyoom, but, to my astonishment, demanded such an exorbitant price for one day's journey, that I took the other road, determining to return by the Libyan Hills. I now understand why they were seemingly so unreasonable. Having little upon me to lose, I would gladly have returned by the mountains, preferring to run some risk, rather than delay my departure for England, but now there was no choice.

As no guide was to be found for the mountain route, I started in the afternoon for Cairo, with a Turk who pretended to know the road. He was on horseback, but mounted on my dromedary, at its ambling pace, I kept him generally on the trot. Soon after dark, when we were about half-way across the desert, I became rather sleepy, and my eyes were closed, but I was roused from a kind of half-doze by a cry from one of my servants, that we had lost our road. I perceived by the Polar Star that we were going in a southern direction instead of north-east, and were in no path, but lost among the sand-hills. I therefore determined to wait until the moon was risen, which I knew would be in less than an hour.

The Turk confessed he had lost the road, but persisted that he was in the right direction, and was determined to continue on. As he could not persuade me that south was north, we separated.

In less than an hour the moon rose, and I sent my servants to seek for a path. They soon found one, though it was almost completely covered with sand. I followed it with some difficulty, and it led us into an immense plain near a canal, two hours and a half from Dashoor. The Turk, whilst I was dozing on my dromedary, had led us so much to the south that, if we had continued with him, we should have found ourselves at Benisooéf.

I procured a guide from the first village, but, at three in the morning, we had a difficulty in rousing the Sheakh. At six we arrived at Dashoor, after a journey of fourteen hours, and in five hours more, including the crossing the river, we were in Cairo. Deducting the hour I stated we waited for the moon, we were eighteen hours on our dromedary, generally at an amble, never walking, often at the quick pace of the animal, certainly not averaging much less than four miles and a quarter an hour. We rode, therefore, seventy-six miles in eighteen hours—no slight undertaking.

I was delighted to see again the palm-groves of Memphis; the inundations partly covering some of the fields, making them still more attractive.

The least fatiguing way of visiting the Fyoom is from Benisooéf, the distance, even in the time of the inundations, being less than forty miles, and at the most favourable time not above thirty miles.

To the north of Hawara el Kassob, eight miles from Medeeneh on this route, are the ruins of a crude brick Pyramid, calculated, when entire, to have been three hundred and forty-eight feet square. It is built according to the cardinal points, of dried bricks mixed with much straw. Each brick is seventeen and a half inches long, eight and three-quarters wide, and eight and a half thick. The Pyramid was originally cased with stone, some remains of which are still to be seen near the base. Its actual measurement, according to Perring is, base, two hundred and seventy feet—height, one hundred and six feet [Bunsen, ii., 327]. It was opened by Lepsius, and the discovery by him of the name of Amun-m-he (Mœris,) in the ruins, establishes that king's fame as the founder of this renowned edifice, and, as I have said before, it is very probable this Pyramid was his tomb.

It marks the site of the celebrated Labyrinth, which, from the excavations made by the Prussian Commission, was built round three sides of an open area five hundred feet broad, and six hundred feet long, with the Pyramid at the north, or open end; the whole extent measuring about eleven hundred and fifty feet east and west, by eight hundred and fifty feet north and south, including the area. The plan of Lepsius gives an excellent idea of the Pyramid, and of the innumerable chambers of the Labyrinth, and his view of the walls now remaining shows their construction, but it is destitute of architectural beauty.

CHAPTER V.

Preparations for the Voyage up the Nile—Hiring a Boat—Crew and Accommodation—Furniture and Provisions for the Voyage—New Race of Dragomen—Engagement of my Former Dragoman—Purchase or Hiring of Boats—Advice to Invalids—Destruction of Vermin—Painting—Form of Contract in Hiring a Boat—Avoidance of Vermin—Expense of Stores and Canteens—Purchase of Fresh Provisions—Medicine Chest—Sanitary Precautions—Diseases of the Country—Ophthalmia—Books and other sources of Amusement.

THE first business, on arriving at Cairo, is to secure a boat for the Nile voyage. Every one I consulted recommended me to some friend of their own to assist me in finding one, cautioning me against everybody else, especially the dragomen, who get a large percentage when they hire boats for travellers. I therefore thought it best to go alone to select one, knowing sufficient of Arabic to make my own bargain. We went to Boolak, and saw a number of furnished boats, looking very dingy, for which they asked sixty and seventy pounds a month. At last we found one unfurnished, for which they asked thirty pounds,

and I beat down the réïs, or captain, to twenty-one pounds. The next day I went with the Consul's janissary to see others, but finding none so large and so cheap, I concluded my bargain for twenty-one pounds a month—the reis to have it painted and ready for the twenty-eighth of October; but I should not have got it at this price if I had not engaged it for four months. The boat, or dahabeeah, is seventy-five feet long, of which thirty feet are cabins—the crew consisting of a réïs, pilot, and ten sailors. The furnishing cost about forty pounds, so that for thirty pounds a month we had one equal to those of sixty and seventy pounds; the furniture fresh, far more comfortable than what we saw in the furnished boats, and our own at the end, to sell, or keep it for another season, as we might wish.

Having hired our boat, we had then to furnish and provision it. The former may really be done without very much trouble, if even the traveller has not, as I recommend, brought most of his things from England.

When we visited the Turkish bazaar we bought our carpets for about thirty shillings each, for which they asked us three pounds. As we passed the china bazaar, half an hour's delay enabled us to get all the crockery and glass we wanted. In the same ride we passed through a saddle bazaar, and bought a donkey's saddle, for excursions above Cairo, where, ex-

cept at Thebes, the donkeys have no saddles, and are not accustomed to bridles. In the Uzbekeeh, or large square, there are hardware and provision shops, where any one may purchase whatever his wants suggest. I recommend, especially, the London Depôt, a provision shop behind the Oriental Hotel, kept by a Maltese called Moussa. Travellers have merely to give him a list, and he will find everything they want.

The réïs got our cabins covered with mats, but light-coloured oil-cloth would be preferable, to avoid fleas, bugs, and other vermin. I prefer, however, mats, being much warmer, and, during two winters, it was very rarely we had even a flea in the boat.

The cook, when you have hired him, will arrange the kitchen, and would purchase all other articles requisite. There is no doubt, however, that the more a traveller buys for himself the less his furnishing will cost him, as there are few servants who do not exact a commission for their trouble.

The lady or ladies of the party, in their leisure hours before arriving in Egypt, or in Cairo, may make coverings for divans and twenty-four cushions, and curtains for windows and doors. About sixty yards of chintz, or warmer or more expensive material, should be purchased in Europe. The chintz ought to be strong, for the cushions to bear being stuffed with cotton without being lined. The shape

of the cushions should be long and narrow. The usual width of chintz is, however, long enough. They are required for two divans in the saloon, and two on deck. I had also a divan over my bath in the principal sleeping-room.

We were above a week at Cairo before we decided upon servants. A new race of dragomen have sprung up; attractive certainly in their gay costumes, but, from all we heard, a most untrustworthy set. Not content with their high wages—including board and lodging, eight to twelve pounds a month—they cheat their masters in every possible way. A system, which is called a cotima, or mejowleh, that has sprung up, has made them all very wealthy, and indifferent to modest gains. Travellers, to save themselves trouble, or in order to know the sum total of their expenditure, pay so much for the journey, or so much a day, their dragoman paying all expenses. As they get their boat and provisions cheap, one-half at least of what they receive is generally clear profit. I spoke to several, but the characters I heard of them deterred me from taking them. Those best acquainted with the country advised me to take servants of the old school. I therefore agreed with Mohammed Abdeen, my dragoman when I visited Ethiopia in 1833. He is certainly much aged, but I had proofs of his great talents in my travels in Ethiopia. He speaks Italian perfectly, which is better than English

indifferently, like most of the other dragomen, and as he takes an interest in me from our having encountered some perils and fatigues together, I thought it better to put up with the defect of his age, than take one whom I knew nothing of, and who might, perhaps, be continually trying to cheat us.

For a second servant, or cook, I engaged Mustapha, once a servant of Sir Gardiner Wilkinson's, and recommended in his hand-book on Egypt, whom I engaged at the same rate of wages, namely, six pounds a month. He speaks English, and can serve as dragoman or interpreter, if requisite.

On my last visit, as Mustapha had quarrelled with Abdeen, and refused to travel with him, and as an excellent cook is the most important matter on the Nile, I engaged him as cook and dragoman, and his nephew, a youth of twenty, at a pound a month, as second servant. The latter was very clean and attentive, and was never once, during four months, out of the boat. I add a list of dragomen,* but as their characters are continually changing, the most sober often falling into drunken habits, their last certificate should be carefully examined, and inquiries made of the Consul, or Mrs. Leader, the clergyman's wife, an excellent

* Mohammed Abdeen—Mustapha Mohammed—Mahmood—Hassan Botche — Mohammed Rachede — Mohammed el Adli — Mohammed Abd-el Atee—Mohammed Gazoue—Mohammed Achmet Said—Mahmoud el Berbere—Hamet Abd-el Hader.

person, who is always glad to be useful to travellers.

The price of boats is now so enormous, that travellers with moderate incomes are obliged to join together, which is very disagreeable.

Of about one hundred boats up the Nile in the season of 1861, there were not half a dozen that were not what is called "a cotima," that is, as I have stated, so much a head paid for each person. When the party consisted of four, or more, the price was generally about twenty-five shillings a day each.

Most of the boats have two small cabins on each side of the passage leading to the saloon, which is generally from nine to fourteen feet long, a bed-room, large enough for two, at the stern of the boat, and on the sides of the passage leading to the latter room from the saloon are always two other small bed-rooms, a water-closet and washing-room; some boats, like mine, are without the two first rooms. Six persons may, therefore, be accommodated in the largest boats, as the Arab servants always sleep out of the cabin. I met with several parties of five. Those, however, who go for health should be alone, or with a single friend, or their own family, that they may be independent, and stay, at least, four months up the river, and most of that time in Nubia; that they may linger at the places which suit them best, and close the windows and doors before sunset. The changes of temperature are very great, and so injurious to invalids,

that they must take precautions which to healthy companions would be annoying; and for invalids to travel together, as frequently happened this winter, one to have anxiety for the other, is certainly not desirable.

I met with one party, consisting of two ladies and their invalid husbands, most estimable people. One lady was very anxious to prolong her stay in Nubia, the best climate on the Nile, which was curing her husband. The other lady was, with good reason, anxious to return to Cairo for medical advice.

Some invalids, I found, got nervous in the solitude of Nubia, finding themselves six to eight hundred miles from doctors and civilized life. Some like to linger where there are antiquities to occupy their minds. Others care only for shooting; and not a few get tired of each other's company.

It may matter very little in other countries how the rich spend their money, but their raising the prices of the Nile have really excluded invalids with limited purses from a climate which would, probably, cure them. I have known so many who have been obliged to spend their winter at Cairo, and others who have not ventured to go to Egypt, that, invalid as I am, and suffering under the severest bereavement, I should not have taken the trouble to collect my notes, and publish this volume, if I had not thought I could be of some use to invalids and tra-

vellers of limited means, by showing how cheaply the voyage may really be made.

It is generally considered necessary for invalids to go to warm climates for two winters, to effect a radical cure. Their cheapest way to Alexandria, and the most agreeable, as the boats are seldom overcrowded, is by the steamers direct from Liverpool, touching only at Malta. They could in Liverpool supply themselves as well as at Fortnam and Mason's in London, with the provisions, &c., mentioned in another page, though many of these things travellers may take from their homes. Most dragomen have canteens, and will, if required when engaged themselves, let their masters have the use of them for one pound to two pounds a month.

A very slight study of the language is requisite to be able to make a bargain for a boat; but, without this knowledge, travellers should procure a letter to some honest man at Alexandria or Cairo, who would assist them, without taking any heavy per-centage. Invalids intending to spend on the Nile four or five months, two seasons consecutively, would do well to purchase a boat at Alexandria. Four of the best boats on the Nile, belonging to a pasha deceased, two of wood and two iron ones (which latter, be it remembered, cannot pass the cataract), with furniture and canteens, were offered for sale in one lot, and only sixty pounds per boat was bid; and it was

understood they were to have been sold for one hundred pounds each. I believe that, with careful search and cautious bargaining, a very good unfurnished boat may generally be bought for one hundred and twenty pounds.

Though not considered requisite in these days, I should have it sunk, if possible, to destroy all insects and rats, and the latter nuisance may then be for ever avoided, if care is taken to moor some distance from the bank. All suspicious holes in the boat should be carefully stopped, and the boat well painted inside and outside, which will cost ten to twelve pounds, if done by a Maltese, which is desirable, for, though the Arabs understand admirably harmony of colouring, their paint is always bad. A saloon looks well painted a bluish-white, with panellings picked out in gold. In this dry climate a boat may be painted in a week or ten days—the time required to find a réïs, or captain, and a crew of ten men. These will cost about ten pounds a month, and six and twenty shillings less if the boat is a small one, and requires only eight sailors. For twenty-six shillings a month the réïs would take care of it during absence in the summer months. In purchasing the traveller should not only examine carefully the boat, but also the sails, oars, the sandal, or small boat, and the awnings for the deck and quarter-deck. Unless the

boat can be sunk, he should avoid purchasing an old boat, as such boats generally abound in rats.

If purchasing be thought too much trouble, good large boats, from two hundred and fifty to three hundred ardebs, may be hired at Alexandria or Cairo—if for four or five months, from twenty to twenty-two pounds a month; and smaller ones, sufficiently large for two persons, at even fifteen pounds, the owner paying for the expense of painting. In the note below * is a form of contract, which must be written

* 1. The boat, or dahabeeah, with the réïs and sailors, to be at the entire disposition of Mr. H. 2. The réïs not to take other passengers or goods. 3. The réïs and sailors to be obedient to orders, and no one to quit the boat on any pretext, without permission of Mr. H. 4. The réïs to navigate during the night, when the wind is favourable; the boatmen never to tie the sails, but to keep the rope (shagool) in their hands, that is, to keep it free (khalus), and the boat to be towed in the day when requisite. 5. The boat never to be stopped at any town when the wind is fair, without the permission of Mr. H. 6. The boat to be taken to the second cataract by Mr. H. 7. The réïs undertakes that his boat, sails, and oars shall be in good condition, and his ballast sufficient. 8. The boat to be sunk twenty-four hours, if requisite, to destroy the vermin; and the boat never to be moored near other boats for rats to pass in. 9. The decks of the boat to be washed every morning, Mr. H. giving one or two piasters a week to the man selected by him for this work. 10. Mr. H. to pay for the hire of the boat ——— piasters for the month, if used only one month; ——— piasters for each month if kept two months; ——— piasters for each month if kept three months; ——— piasters for each month if kept four months. 11. Mr. H. not to be answerable for any extra charges, except the passing the first cataract, or for accidents to the boat then or at any time. 12. The Baksheesh to depend entirely on the behaviour of the réïs, and the men. 13. ——— piasters to be paid by Mr. H. before leaving Cairo; ——— piasters the first of each succeeding month the boat is kept. 14. Mr. H. not to be liable if the boat is burned, unless clearly his fault.

out in Arabic at the English Consul's. The dahabeeah should have its small boat, or sandal, with an awning, and mast, and sail, which, if not provided, will cost fifty shillings.

Over the door of my cabin, to keep out flies, I had a fisherman's old net, doubled and dyed blue; and over all the windows, at one side of my cabins, thin muslin curtains, carefully nailed; and, keeping the other windows closed, I was thus almost entirely free from mosquitoes and flies, the plagues of Egypt.

The fitting out your own boat is rather amusing than otherwise. A visit to the numerous furnished boats shows what is requisite, and, instead of dingy furniture, too frequently full of insects, you have everything fresh and clean, and it is the traveller's own fault if he does not keep it so. There is no touching pitch without being defiled, and if he has not clean servants, or allows the sailors or peasants to rub their garments against him, he must expect to suffer but I must say that, out of England, I never enjoyed more perfect immunity from anything of the kind.

Stores and canteens, &c., are much dearer in Egypt than in Europe. I paid four pounds six shillings for a barrel of biscuits, not so good as a friend of mine bought at Fortnum and Mason's for one pound sixteen shillings. Salt butter is three shillings a pound at Cairo. Potatoes, a great requisite on the

Nile, are seldom to be got good in Egypt early in the season. They may be purchased at Malta, and still better at Marseilles. Those who sail from that port may buy many things there, and give an order to Fortnum and Mason's, who will send whatever else they require, by the Southampton boats, at eleven shillings a hundred-weight freight. Those who sail from Liverpool to Alexandria would do well to bring everything with them. In making out the lists I give the initials of the places, chiefly England and Cairo, where they may be purchased, but what may be got in England may almost always be purchased at Marseilles.*

* Two narrow horsehair mattresses, or one large one for one or two persons in the stern cabin, E. M.

Other narrow mattresses, if required, for other cabins, E. M.

Forty yards of stout brown holland for divans, &c., E. C.

Foot-tub, E. C.; washing ditto, E. C.; tea-kettle, E. C.

Canteen, containing cutlery and glass, tea-things and crockery, E. C.

Coffee-pot, E. C.: candlesticks, E. C.; small bellows, E. C.

Oil-cloths for the cabins, if Egyptian mats not preferred, E. C.

Macintosh, or American oil-cloth, to preserve the divans on deck from damp, E.

Easy chairs, E. C.; a fine sieve, E. C.

Brushes and tin for sweeping cabins, E. C.; gridiron, E. C.

Rat trap, E. C.; Hammer, screws, nails, and brass hooks, E. C.

Tin jugs and basins, E. C.; tin pan for boiling milk, E C.

The copper pans for cooking, if dragoman does not find them, C.

Blankets, E.; towels, napkins, sheets, table-cloths, E. C.

Tables and common chairs, C.

Segadehs, or Persian carpets, if required, C.

Flags and pennants at John Pay's in C. or E.

Goolahs, or water-bottles, C.

Jar for filtering ditto, C.; fly-flaps, C.; donkey-saddle, C.

Kitchen, C.; arms and ammunition, E.; measuring tapes, E.

With good management, fresh provisions on the Nile cost very little. As you pass Girgeh and Erment a stock of turkeys may be bought at one shilling

Stationery and drawing-materials, E. C.

Telescopes, thermometer, E.

Umbrellas for the sun, E. C.

Pipes and tobacco, C.; two mirrors three or four feet high for the saloon, E. C.

Small ones for cabin, E. C.: irons for ironing, E.; a small bell, E. C.

Iron rods for the curtains of windows and doors, C.

Sixty yards of chintz, or other material, for divans, cushions, curtains, &c., E. M. C.

Cotton for stuffing divans and cushions, C.

Provisions for the Boat.—Potatoes, E. C.; one barrel of white flour, as it is not always to be got in Cairo, and cost me three pounds, E. M.; some brown flour, if required; one barrel of biscuits, E. C.; some dinner ditto, E. C.; one keg of beef, E. C.; salt butter if liked, E. C.; preserved meats, fish, vegetables and soups; Julian and green peas I found the most useful, E. C.; twenty pounds of soap for washing, E. C.; twenty ditto, Macaroni, E. C.; a good cheese, E. C.; condiments, E. C.; two bottles of cayenne pepper, E. C.; one bottle of black pepper, E. C.; four packages of salt, E. C.; two bottles of pickles, E.; two bottles of salad oil, E. C.; two bottles of distilled vinegar, E. C.; (a good stock of preserves is required for breakfast, as fresh butter is seldom to be had good). One bottle of curry-powder, E. C.; one case of arrowroot, E. C.; six pounds of tapioca, E. C.; six pounds of sago, E. C.; six pounds of barley, E. C.; thirty packages of spermacetti, wax, or composite candles, E. C.; wine, with drawback of duty, E.; sherry, champagne, bordeaux, and port (as a medicine), and brandy, E.; bitter beer, E.; ten pounds of tea, cheap and good at Malta; several loaves of white sugar, E. C.; starch, E. C.; a case of raisins, E.; a drum of figs, C.; a case of French plums, E.; almonds, E.; basket of rice, C.; fifteen okres of mishmish, or preserved apricots—with rice, the best sweet on the Nile, C.; twenty pounds of cooking butter, C.; two cheeses for servants, C.; basket of charcoal, C.; twelve pounds of coffee, a larger quantity of tea not generally used; C; four loaves of Egyptian sugar for servants, C.; oranges, pomegranates, and apples, C.; a moderate supply of fresh poultry and meat, as frequently the strong winds of autumn carry boats past the large towns, C.; several papers of cress to sow in your empty boxes for salads.

and sixpence, or two shillings each, early in the season. Chickens, pigeons, vegetables, and bread for servants, are very cheap. One of the sailors gets milk every morning, if the traveller does not buy a goat, which costs thirty shillings. The beef is not eatable, but the mutton is generally very good. Sheep vary in price according to the demand. Often in Nubia very dear, but generally in Egypt half a fine sheep may be purchased for five or six shillings.

It is very requisite to take out a medicine chest, and a plentiful supply of the medicines most useful for the principal diseases of the Nile—diarrhœa, dysentry, ophthalmia, and ague. It is prudent, before going to Egypt, to be vaccinated, as small-pox is often very prevalent in the villages. The réïs of Baron Rothschild's boat was foolishly allowed to take his little son with him up the Nile, and, having caught that disease from the other children in the bazaars, was obliged to be put in quarantine in the small boat of the dahabeeah. The excellent Consul at Thebes, an old servant of mine, was always in the English boats, and was visited daily by travellers. Proud of his little son, he sent him to my boat to make my acquaintance. I afterwards heard he had, at that very time, a child lying dead in his house from that disease. An English gentleman, unfortunately, caught it. He got a steamer to take down to Cairo some of his party; but his wife, who nursed him successfully

through his illness, caught the disease, and died at Cairo.

Sometimes there are many doctors making the tour of the Nile, and other winters few or none. Those, therefore, who do not take physicians with them must be prepared to doctor themselves, not only for the complaints which led them to Egypt, but also for the diseases which are common there. If people are determined to throw away their lives, the voyage up the Nile certainly affords facilities, but, with ordinary prudence, no country is more healthy, and few are the travellers who do not find their health greatly improved there. Doctor Paterson, at Cairo, is very clever and attentive. I give, in a note, his directions to travellers, and a list of medicines most useful in Egypt. They may all be got at Cairo, but are dearer there, and not so good as in England.*

* Travellers should avoid, if possible, exposing themselves to the sun between eleven and three, and should not sit in draughts when the body is heated or perspiring. When clothes are damp from perspiration, they should be changed, and the skin rubbed dry, or additional clothing put on. Dysentery and ophthalmia are generally caused by neglect of these precautions.

Diet.—Travellers should not eat too much fruit or vegetables, the latter to be thoroughly cooked; an early dinner-hour recommended. Avoid sleeping in bed-rooms on the ground-floor, or in any place exposed to draughts of air.

Diseases.—For head-aches, for biliousness from exposure to the sun, a gentle purgative, and bathing the head with cold water while the feet are kept in hot water, to which a teaspoonful of mustard may be added. If very severe, eight or ten leeches should be applied to the temples. For bilious attacks, attended with constipation, a blue pill at night and seidlitz powder in the morning. Habitual constipa-

It is not requisite to think only of bodily comforts; though there may be a hundred boats up the river, you see very little of travellers, except at Philæ or Thebes. All are thrown on their own resources—their gun, their pencil, or their books; unless you devote your voyage to shooting, and stay where there are inland lakes—like a noble lord who, with the as-

tion to be treated by occasional and gentle laxatives, such as simple rhubarb pills, and a free use of fruits, such as dried figs and stewed prunes. Diarrhœa may proceed from various causes—exposure to the sun, irregularities of diet, and from damp feet; if the diarrhœa is traceable to indigestible articles of food, attended with griping pains at the stomach, give a small tablespoon of castor-oil and ten drops of laudanum, or three grains of Dover's powders. In simple diarrhœa, attended with yellow motions, give first a blue pill, and after three hours five grains of Dover's powders, which may be repeated, if need be, at the same interval. In diarrhœa with copious watery motions, give fifteen drops of diluted sulphuric acid, commonly known as elixir of vitriol, in a wine-glass of water every half hour, until four doses are taken. If this has no effect, give Dover's powders as above. This form of diarrhœa should not be allowed to go on any length of time without treatment, especially in delicate individuals and females. Dysentery may arise suddenly from the causes above mentioned, or neglecting any of the described diarrhœas. It is to be distinguished from ordinary diarrhœa by the straining at the stool, or pain at the rectum, and, when further advanced, by the passing of mucus and blood. In such a case give first a blue pill; after three hours give a table-spoon of the following mixture:—castor oil, two table-spoons; whites of four eggs; two wine-glasses of water to be added gradually, and beaten up with the above; a little powdered gum arabic may be usefully added to this mixture. This dose must be repeated every hour, or every two hours, according to the severity of the symptoms, until the motions become more natural, and the straining at the stool diminishes. In every case of looseness of the bowels, or dysentery, rice-water is the best drink, also toast and water, and the whites of a few eggs beaten up with water. After a severe attack of dysentery, a tonic is often necessary, a grain of quinine twice a day.

Ague.—As soon after the sweating stage as the stomach will bear

sistance of a great gun, made for the purpose, killed, they said, last season, sixteen hundred ducks and geese—the shooting on the Nile is a disappointment to all.

Photographic machines have superseded the pencil

it, give a teaspoon of Gregory's powders, or some mild laxative; when it has operated, give two grains of quinine every three hours, until four doses have been taken. Discontinue the pills for a few hours, until within an hour of the first paroxysm having appeared, then give another pill. Should the attack return before the pill is given, its administration must be deferred, as it is improper then to give the medicine. If this period passes over without return of paroxysm, it will be well to give a few more of the pills at the same interval the next day, as the ague might be a third-day ague; if this period passes over, then give a mild laxative to open the bowels. As a matter of precaution it might be well to give for two days one pill at the time corresponding to the first attack. A light diet should be observed.

Ophthalmia begins by a slight redness and itching of the eye, and a feeling of grittiness, as if a grain of sand had got into the eye. The best simple remedies are constant spunging of the eye with tepid milk and water or tepid water, avoidance of light, wearing a shade, and dropping between the eyelids a few drops of a wash, containing from four to six grains of sulphur of zinc to a large tablespoon full of water; a light purgative and low diet are necessary. (I have cured myself and others repeatedly by a mixture containing ten grains of zinc to an ounce of water, dropping or putting in with my finger sufficient to make the eye smart for a minute or two. G. H.) It may be requisite in very severe forms of this complaint for active treatment, such as the application of leeches and purging, and the use of a strong collyrium containing from five to eight grains of nitrate of silver (caustic) to the ounce of water; but this, if possible, must be treated by a physician.

List of Medicines to be taken up the Nile.—Rhubarb; castor oil; Epsom salts; blue pills; Dover's powders; Gregory's powders; dilute sulphuric acid; quinine; zinc; nitrate of silver; sulphurate of copper; calomel; ipecacuanha; diaculum plaster; laudanum; a lancet, scales, and liquid measures; leeches from Cairo. All medicines should be in bottles with glass tops.

in delineating the monuments, but beautiful water-colour sketches of the river scenery, and the magical effects of colouring, may be purchased from Mr. Walton, a very clever young English artist, at Cairo. Sight-seeing, shooting, sitting all day on deck, sailing up the stream, or rowing down it, is fatiguing, even to the strong; and interesting and amusing books are absolutely requisite. As guide-books, Wilkinson's Hand-book and Ancient Egyptians, in six volumes, or the popular edition in two, will be sufficient. If Wilkinson's map is not published, Colonel Leake's is still the best. Those who wish to study hieroglyphics, and understand something of the pictures they see on the walls, should take out Champollion's Grammar and Dictionary.

CHAPTER VI.

My First Voyage up the Nile—Scenes on the River—Excavated Chambers—Pyramids of Sakkara and Dashoor—The Pasha's Yacht—Mosk Attar e' Nebbee—Shoal of Arab Boats—Mokattam Range—Quarries of Masarah—Peasants Irrigating the Land—Pyramid of Lisht—Haram el Kedab, or the False Pyramid—Tracking under a Hot Sun—Music and Singing of the Sailors—Beni-sooéf—Village of Bibbeh—Appearance of the Natives—The Mountain of Sheakh Embarak—An Awkward Accident—Effects of a Gust of Wind—Sheakh Fodl—Gebel e Tayr—A Convent of Copts—Arrival at Minieh—Fertility of the Banks of the Nile—Egyptian Villages—Tower and Ruins of Kom Ahmar—The Tombs of Beni Hassan—Representations of Egyptian Life—Injuries caused by Thoughtless Travellers—View from the Tombs—Approach to the Temple of the Egyptian Diana—The Speos Artemidos—Beautiful Sculptures.

My first voyage up the river was commenced the 23rd February, 1832; the second, 1st November, 1859; and the third, the 17th November, 1860.

Early in November the sunsets are finer, otherwise the last date is quite soon enough. Several boats with English families started at the same time as I did, but my good dahabeeah, the *Londra*, arrived in

twelve days at Thebes, two days before any of the others, though I made several stoppages at Beni Hassan, Dendera, &c., and stayed a day to bake bread at Girgeh. In February I found we often ran aground on the islands, which causes unpleasant delays, but in the November voyages to Thebes this happened to us only once. In this month, and also in October, and even in December, there is generally a fine north breeze, which carries you up the then full and noble river most enjoyably. The current is strong, and you appear to sail quicker than you really do; but when the wind is fresh, which very frequently happens, it is most delightful yachting. Before Christmas there are also not so many of those calms and southerly winds which, if they do not stop your progress entirely, oblige your sailors to land and drag the boat at the rate of about twenty miles a day.

During my first voyage, commenced so late in the season, I was too anxious to get into Nubia, and during my other voyages too great an invalid to land at every place mentioned in the accurate hand-book as the site of ancient towns, where only slight, if any, remains of antiquity still exist. More opportunities are afforded for studying and enjoying Egyptian art in one ride at Thebes than in a score of such excursions, especially as the work of destruction has been going on at such a lamentable rate during the last thirty

years. I shall therefore merely notice the places best deserving of attention, and give some description of the scenery of the river, which has scarcely been done justice to. Those who are ambitious to be discoverers in this now exhausted field, or wish to amuse themselves with their guns, killing pigeons, turtle-doves, ducks, &c., have ample opportunities during the many calms they will have to endure.

Starting with a favourable breeze, we passed various palaces, and two picturesque mosks, on our left; and, on our right, the different groups of Pyramids, the acacias, sycamores, and sometimes palms, in the foreground were picturesque; and the height of these trees formed a scale which gave us a more correct idea of their great size. On our left we passed the extensive quarries of Masarah, from which the stones of the Pyramids were taken, and which still show how the Egyptian masons cut their stone, and the causeway by which they were conveyed to the Nile. We lost sight of the Pyramids of Geezeh at a mosk picturesquely situated close to the Nile, called Attar e' Nebbee, from an impression they pretend to possess of the Prophet's shoe.

The country then suddenly becomes perfectly flat, the summit of the low Mokattam range being, for a short time only, occasionally visible. Our route was enlivened by a shoal of above fifty Arab boats, each with one lofty sail, often white and fresh, pic-

turesque on the water; but others might have been in battle, they were such rags and tatters.

After passing the village and Convent of E Dayr, we came to a short break in the Mokattam range, which partakes a little of the grandeur of the wilderness. Two Arab villages, divided by small fields of doorah, form the foreground of the little desert of the Bahr-bela-me, or sea without water, and the bleak, yellow hill of Gebel e Jooshee, on the highest point of which is a round tower, part of the ruins of a castle. A single tree only was visible near the villages, which, in point of colour, resembled the hills. On our right we had villages, but, as usual, surrounded with groves of palm-trees.

We observed many excavated chambers in this range, and as we approached the end of it the view to the north, of Cairo in the distance, the summits of the Pyramids of Geezeh just visible above the palms on our left, the Mokattam range, and a very pretty Arab village, with its mosks and groves of palms, was very picturesque.

The groups of the Pyramids of Sakkara and Dashoor are interesting, situate in the wild and dreary desert, a striking contrast to the banks of the Nile, covered with verdant crops and groves of palm-trees, every grove hiding a village.

At sunset we were becalmed, and stopped for the

night. The next day, with a pleasant breeze, we continued our voyage.

On the banks were numerous caravans of travellers and encampments of soldiers, and the river was enlivened by many steam-boats crowded with negro regiments dressed in white, who looked very picturesque. Their teeth, which they were continually displaying, as white as their clothes. We passed the Pasha's yacht, with the Pasha himself on board, eyeing us with a telescope. His yacht appeared to consist entirely of cabins, having seventeen large windows on each side.

The banks were unusually animated to-day. Besides the usual groups of naked peasants, with only a slight covering around their waists, irrigating the land with the shadoof—the pole with a weight at one end and a bucket at the other—and oxen ploughing the fields, there was, for nearly a mile, a continuous line of the Arab boats I mentioned yesterday now becalmed. Our men had great difficulty in tracking us past them, especially some laden with hay. My generally very quiet réïs sat at the head of the boat, and kept up a constant barufa (quarrel) with them. The Arabs delight in a row, but, fortunately, it is all talk, and does not end in blows.

The eastern bank was flat in the extreme. A narrow strip of cultivated land, with a considerable breadth of desert, was bounded by the low monotonous

line of the Ouchy range, a continuation of the Mokattam hills.

Towards evening, as we arrived at Kafr el Iyat we saw the two Pyramids of Lisht, very much ruined, and not worth visiting. Another dawn brought a southerly breeze, which is worse than a calm; but in a few hours we were opposite the Harem el Kedáb, or the False Pyramid, so named from its being constructed on a conical rock, which makes it appear far more lofty than it otherwise would. It is built in four stages, the lowest very high, and apparently almost perpendicular. A considerable portion of the summit is destroyed, otherwise if it ended in a point, it would be still more imposing than it is even now, towering far above three lofty palms on the cultivated ground miles from it, as if to give us an idea of its height. From our boat scarcely the slightest hillock is to be seen for some distance around the Pyramid. On our left we had still the range of Ouchy or Mokattam hills, monotonous in the extreme, and only relieved by the verdant banks and groves of palm-trees.

In the afternoon we had a slight but favourable breeze, which was a great relief, as it is tiresome work tracking, and hard work for the sailors under a hot sun. They enjoyed the respite, and amused themselves in singing to their darabooka,* and

* A drum consisting of a parchment strained over an earthenware cone.

tambourine, the timbrel of Miriam, an instrument very like what the Egyptian Venus, Athor, is sometimes represented holding in her hand. Their music, if they are not allowed to sing too loud, and one has not too much of it, and if it were not that the man who sings the solo parts has generally a cracked voice, is not displeasing. Their airs are, however, sometimes monotonous, and their choruses very like groans of disapprobation. Ten voices, often fine, singing plaintive airs in a minor key, have generally a very pleasing effect; but before the Nile voyage is over travellers get rather tired of it, as the men pretend they cannot row without singing. I never allowed it for more than half an hour occasionally, a slight backsheesh making ample amends to the sailors for what is really a great enjoyment to them. One of our crew is a buffoon, with a most extraordinary voice, and would have made an admirable pulcinella. He imitates different animals, and often, to the great delight of his companions, draws out our cat from her usual hiding-place.

In the evening we came to Benisooef, where is now a vast military encampment. The crowds of soldiers and peasants made insufferable dust. The Pasha had lately there a camp of 3,000 men, and his palace and Governor's house are handsome buildings.

Benisooef is the capital of the province, and has a bazaar of about one hundred shops, cotton and silk

manufactories, and mosks with minarets, announcing, as we approached, a more considerable town, the mosks of the villages on the Nile having rarely minarets.

The houses of the peasants on the Nile are often shared with their pigeons, the peasants living below and their pigeons above, giving to the tawny-coloured mud-huts a much more picturesque appearance.

At the village of Bibbeh a long chimney exhibits an attempt of the son-in-law of Abbas Pasha to irrigate the land in a more successful way than by the shadoof and sakkeea, or water-wheel.

About a dozen boats were moored to a bank, a small portion of which was formed of stones which might be Roman work, but from the smallness of the stones I think they are of a later date. Besides the crowds of Turks and Arabs in the boats, half the population of the place appeared to be on the quay. Among them were women in their blue gowns, or melayehs, not so careful of hiding their faces as they generally are, and children tolerably dressed, though a few were naked, as in former times. There were some fine-looking men. One, in a white dress and skull-cap, with his cloak flung picturesquely over his shoulder, leaning on his long staff, was a perfect study for an artist. Then there were many men with span-new blue melayehs, red tarboushes, and white turbans, showing that the world was prosperous with them.

The water-carriers filling their skins on the banks were almost the only men very poor in their appearance.

Far more attractive were the girls, with legs and arms of a beautiful form, and almost fair in colour, compared with the sun-burned men, filling their large jars with water, and gracefully poising them on their heads, and walking without even supporting them with their hands, as only Egyptian women can walk. Then there was every variety of animals—dogs, goats, and poultry—in great numbers; buffaloes in the water, horses, cows, and camels, and such a noise as ten times the number of people would not have made in sober Europe, especially here and there where the buying and selling had produced the usual quarrel. The country on the eastern bank was uninteresting, a very low range of flat hills visible in the distance.

Next morning, tracking, and having occasionally a favourable breeze, we arrived at Pashet, which, though not visible, must be a considerable village, as we counted seventeen boats moored at the bank. Opposite is a range of hills, the first we have seen, rising almost perpendicularly from the river, not picturesque, but relieving a little the monotony of our route, which was still further relieved by a lively breeze, and the river soon became animated with numerous boats.

The lofty table-mountain of Sheakh Embarek appeared to stop our progress, but in two hours we reached it. Its broken surface, and one bold cliff, resembling a ruined castle, combined with a grove of palms in the distance, and the domed tomb of the Sheakh, have a picturesque appearance, especially as the views immediately before reaching this range and afterwards are monotonous in the extreme.

On my first voyage up the Nile an awkward accident happened to me near here. My sailors were tracking against a very strong wind, when the rope broke, and, with only two men on board, we were carried rapidly down the stream. The wind was off the only bank we could safely land on, and made it very difficult for us to run the boat ashore.

The Sheakh to-day sent us such a gust of wind that it upset my table, bore away, irrecoverably, the large umbrella I used for shade, and carried me, reclining on an invalid-chair with castors, to the very margin of my boat, which was very nearly upset from the slowness and clumsiness of the man in letting go the great sail. My réïs has not got his ballast on board, for nothing will persuade these men to give good money at Cairo for stones they can get for nothing up the river. If we gave them the money, and did not see that the ballast was absolutely bought at Cairo, they would pocket the cash, make their salaam,

say most respectfully, "Hadr," and get it in some night we were asleep.

Continuing our monotonous voyage, we came to Sheakh Fodl, a low range of limestone hills, with a narrow strip of cultivated land below them. The long chain of mountains of Gebel e Tayr is more interesting, some of them rising perpendicularly from the river, screened by a verdant veil of palm-trees; and on the west bank is a promontory covered with fine acacias. This is considered one of the most dangerous parts of the river, the gusts of wind from the gorges of the rocks often upsetting the boats.

On the summit is the convent of Copts, called Sitteh Mariam el Adra—The Lady Mary, the Virgin, generally called Deyr el Adra. The monks generally swim to the boats on inflated water-skins to beg, but the wind being strong we were saved from their importunities. They wanted us to come to land, but we were not so charitably disposed as to stop our course. There is an old legend that the birds of Egypt make an annual pilgrimage to this mountain, and, when they quit it, leave one of their flock to guard it until the following year.

We soon after arrived at Minieh, one of the prettiest as well as most considerable towns on the Nile. The bazaar is wide and airy, and there are some handsome buildings—the Governor's house, cotton manufactories, mosks, and baths. The

country around is rich and beautiful, presenting the characteristic scenery of the Nile—flat ridges of rocks without verdure, and on the banks of the river groves of palm-trees. The sportsman and the strong may almost rejoice when calms and southerly breezes enable them to ramble on the banks, and enjoy very good shooting of pigeons, turtle-doves, and quails, which are so abundant the sportsman may fill his bag almost anywhere in an hour or two.

There are also storks, pelicans, geese, ducks, spoon-bills, flamingoes, shags, cranes, wagtails, larks, sparrows; and, higher up the river, above Manfaloot, the crocodile, very difficult to get a shot at, and still more difficult to kill (though on my first voyage up the Nile I shot one).

The rich crops and verdure of the Nile are a glorious sight. Besides the wheat, which pays the peasant's rent and taxes, and the doorah, or Indian corn, on which they and their families chiefly depend for their food, the banks of the Nile appear to be capable to produce everything, though the plants of the Nile have little beauty of blossom, and are almost destitute of odour. The variety is, however, extraordinary in a country where so little capital, intellect, and energy are employed in their cultivation. Among other produce may be seen cotton, which may be produced in any quantity, indigo, rice, sugar, tobacco, clover, maize, castor oil, mallows, coriander, sesame,

tomatoes, vegetable marrow, gourds, melons, beans, French beans, cauliflowers, cabbages, lettuces, chuck peas, lupines, lentils, onions, leeks, coleseed, carrots, &c., &c.

Since my visit, the war in America has given an immense impulse to the cultivation of cotton. The quality is excellent, and the price now is four times as high as it was in the time of Mohammed Ali. It is said that the exports of cotton this year will amount to eight millions sterling. If the war continues, there is every probability that a great part of the valley of the Nile, so admirably adapted for the purpose, will be turned into a cotton field, and supplies of grain obtained from other countries. I trust the poor cultivators will have their fair share of this greatly increased source of wealth; but unfortunately the peasants are generally ignorant, necessitous, and, it must be confessed, too often improvident, and there are persons who frequently purchase their growing crops at half their value.

What a country Egypt might become, not so much by new methods of irrigation and cultivation, but simply by carrying out more thoroughly the present system! Nubia produces senna; but little can be done there, the strip of land is now generally so narrow. The heat of that country checks the growth and withers herbaceous plants during six months of the year. The villages in this rich country are but

a collection of miserable mud huts. Near the Nile the outside ones are often joined together, forming a wall nine to ten feet high, to protect them from being carried away by that mighty river, which, as we have seen in 1852, is not always a blessing, but sometimes causes the ruin and destruction of immense districts.

Next day we coasted under a low range of hills, fringed with a narrow strip of cultivated land planted with palm-trees, at the extremity of which Kom Ahmar is very picturesque, with its tower and ruins. In the rocks are many excavated tombs, formerly interesting, but now, they say, sadly destroyed.

We soon afterwards reached Beni-Hassan. It is prudent to take advantage of every northerly breeze and hasten to the south, especially for invalids in the autumn, as the nights are then always damp until they arrive at Esneh. There and above that place the nights are generally as dry as the days. The antiquities can be seen on returning, when the oars and the current make travellers more independent of the wind. Two exceptions should be made to this rule—Thebes and the tombs of Beni-Hassan, which should both be seen twice. It is in the sepulchres that we see an epitome of ancient Egyptian life —there are displayed their knowledge, their tastes, their pursuits, their habits, their pleasures. Elsewhere the tombs are often, from their closeness and

ruined state, unpleasant to visit; but these tombs of Beni-Hassan are open to the Nile breezes, and no drawback of any kind diminishes the pleasure of the excursion.

Then it must not be forgotten that these tombs are far more ancient than any antiquities further up the river—that some of them bear the name of Osirtasen I., who is supposed to have reigned above 2000 years B.C.—and as Wilkinson very correctly states, many of them are obviously in their architecture imitations of then existing buildings. From the perfection of the architecture and the excellent execution, though not the best, of some of the tombs and paintings, art was obviously then very far from being in its infancy; and we cannot, without wonder as well as pleasure, study these very early pages of the history of the civilization of the world. They do not, as in other tombs and temples, give us representations of the theocracy and mysterious rites which the learned can scarcely yet understand. All that time has spared here is interesting in the extreme, for it is a picture of the Egyptian people and their Governors.

From the state of the Nile we were enabled to land opposite the village of Beni-Hassan, from whence donkeys can be procured (though it is only a mile's walk), to visit these celebrated tombs. They are excavated in the rock, and nearly all on the same level,

and very conspicuous from the river and the plain. Beginning my description from the south end, there is a group of tombs without sculpture, the second tomb, connected by a doorway with the first, has an arch-shaped portico, decorated with two polygonal columns. The tomb was also to have been decorated with two columns with circular bases.

Passing two or three others we came to what I will call the third of the principal group, which contains an injured figure and pit for mummies. In the fourth tomb are figures wrestling—an ox, gazelles, a sportsman, and a long tablet of hieroglyphics before the owner of the tomb. The fifth tomb contains no paintings, but the architecture is good. Two injured but elegant columns, formed, as it were, of four light stems of trees bound together, with lotus-bud shaped capitals, support a graceful pediment.

In the sixth the paintings are not distinguishable, but it contains pits for mummies. The eighth and ninth tombs are not worth entering. In the tenth a pretty ornament of the blue and crimson lotus flower and some offerings are remaining. In the eleventh nothing. In the twelfth are a few figures drawing a shrine, and others presenting offerings of geese, &c. The great man to whom the tomb belonged may be traced. Fragments of columns still adhering to the roof show how this tomb had formerly been decorated.

Then, after passing two very small tombs, we came to the fifteenth, which is very remarkable for its architecture. It was decorated with three rows of three columns each, with lotus-bud capitals supporting pediments, and one extra column at the right side. These are without the binding usually round the shafts of these columns, except the four sculptured ones beneath the capitals. The sixteenth, called the wrestler's tomb, from the principal subject in it, was decorated with six columns, of which two only remain. On one of the shafts two of the green bands may be seen. In the right-hand corner are agricultural scenes and boats.

The granaries, with arched roofs and windows, are curious, and there are white cattle with black spots, droves of other cattle, now much injured, and offerings of fish, fruit, and flowers to the great man of the tomb. On the east side are wrestlers in every possible attitude, and a long inscription in hieroglyphics. On the north side are represented trades—glass-blowers, goldsmiths blowing the fire for melting the gold, weighing, washing it, and preparing it for the jewellers, who are making ornaments near the men blowing the furnace; but this interesting subject is now so much injured that it is difficult to make it out. There are also hunting scenes and various animals. Over a group of gazelles are birds in a tree, and there are white deer with brown spots,

a man with two dogs in a leash; sportsmen killing wild oxen with bows and arrows, catching the wild ox with the lasso, and gazelles with the noose. The lord of the tomb is seated with his wife under a canopy. Another sportsman is killing deer; and there is a long thin net, with gazelles caught in it. An interesting group represents women jumping, tumbling, dancing, and exhibiting their agility in throwing their bodies into most extraordinary attitudes; others playing at ball, throwing up sometimes three in succession, and one group is playing the game mounted on the backs of others; then there are men dancing on one leg, making Egyptian pirouettes and other feats of gymnastics.

The subject of the representation and the names of animals and birds are inscribed in hieroglyphics to help dull minds, as the man in Shakespeare's interlude of "Pyramis and Thisbe," says, "I am wall." Then there are carpenters sawing, upholsterers veneering and making furniture; potters and other trades, very much defaced. On the west side are agricultural scenes, and representations of the papyrus plant. Over a little door on the south side is a man receiving the bastinado. The punishment of the bastinado as regards the men is not very different from what may now be seen when the Katschef or Turkish revenue officer collects his payments, and the village sheakhs are only too glad if they can escape the pay-

ment of a portion by a punishment which, under such circumstances, is rather an honour than a disgrace to them. The old Egyptian sufferer is represented lying on his belly, one man holding his two feet and another each arm, whilst the executioner, holding with his two hands a stick from two to three feet long (relatively to his own height), is on the point of striking his seat. A woman is represented seated on her heels, an oriental fashion still common in the East and Spain—with one hand to her breast, whilst a similar executioner is giving her blows on her back.

The seventeenth tomb contains nothing. The eighteenth had been decorated with two columns, of which fragments only remain. Here also are men receiving the bastinado, various trades on the east side, and interesting wrestling. On the north side are women playing at ball, and various trades and hunting scenes. The nineteenth again contains nothing. The twentieth, a small tomb, has hieroglyphics round the door. We then passed several little tombs of no interest to the northern group. Some of these, however, have porticoes decorated with two columns, the shafts and capitals of which are obviously the origin of the Doric column, and the friezes also are in the Doric style.

The twenty-first tomb has a beautiful portico of this description, and the door is ornamented with well-executed hieroglyphics. This leads into a tomb

which had once been decorated with four columns. The roof is slightly arched in its form. The great man with his assistants is amusing himself with the chase. On the east side in his boat he is netting wild fowl, chiefly geese. The Nile is represented by waving lines, with fish and hippopotami in it. There is a long hieroglyphic inscription all round this sepulchre. Under two rows of animals on the north side is the presentation of thirty-seven strangers of a race called Mes-stem to Nefotph, the owner of the tomb, once believed to be Joseph's brethren, now so injured as to be scarcely recognised; but with attention their Asiatic costumes, light-yellow complexions, peculiar features, and beards, may be distinguished. The scribe presents the people to the owner of the tomb, a great officer of the King, Osirtasen II., probably, as Bunsen says, the great warrior hero of the old empire, the Sesostris of the Greeks. Two of the strangers present their offerings of a wild goat and a gazelle. These are followed by four men armed either with bows, clubs, or spears; then follow two men, one with a spear, the other with a club, their two children apparently very comfortably packed in a gaily-decorated pannier, their heads only visible; then a boy with a spear. Four women in long dresses follow, and after them a donkey with its head stooping as though weary with its load, which seems, however, very light. A man with a seven-stringed

lyre with the plectrum follows, as the ancient Egyptian travellers could not do without music no more than the Arab boatmen their tom-tom, or the Spaniards their guitar; and afterwards a sportsman, with his bow, arrow, quiver, and a club. The men have sandals, the women boots, quite modern in appearance. The cattle in the lowest row are beautifully drawn.

Under this group the nomen and prenomen of King Osirtasen, who reigned about two thousand years before the Christian era, may be seen in the inscription of hieroglyphics which surrounds the sepulchre.

The twenty-second tomb contains hunting scenes, sportsmen with their bows, a long line of gazelles, some as if with one horn; a lion, which in those days often accompanied the sportsmen, is putting his paw on one. Below these subjects are droves of cattle and men catching the wild ox with the lasso, agricultural scenes, and trades, much injured; a better and clearer representation than the one before mentioned will be seen of goldsmiths at work, blowing their fire, making a variety of vases, and weighing them. On the east side are interesting boats, one carrying the mummy of the deceased, and wrestlers.

In the little sanctuary on this side are traces of three sculptured figures. On the west side are agricultural subjects, potters, ropemakers, women playing

on harps, and fishing scenes. On the south side are representations of rich gifts to the lord and lady of the tomb. The portico of this sepulchre resembles the last I have described; and the tomb was also decorated with what I may call the origin of the Doric columns, resting on circular bases. This roof also was beautifully arched in form, and still retains its decorations. The elegant simplicity of the architecture, and the rich effect of its pictorial decorations, must excite the admiration of everyone who cares for art.

It is impossible to estimate too highly these earliest and most certain pages of the history of the civilization of the world. There is not a tomb or picture here that is not worth far more than a score of fanciful and inaccurate passages in ancient writers, who obviously knew little about Egypt. The attempt to reconcile their descriptions may afford good opportunities to the learned to display their ingenuity; but so much that is positive and undeniable as to ancient Egypt has now been discovered, that most people will cling to the monuments as the only safe guides to truth, trusting that the time will come when further discoveries, especially of papyri, will clear away many of the clouds which still darken Egyptian research.

The view from these tombs is impressive. The Nile, covering like a lake miles and miles of country, or when low in the spring, appears but a narrow

stream compared with the wide and verdant plains beyond, planted with groves of palms.

I cannot conclude my remarks on these interesting tombs without expressing my regret at the great changes which have taken place in only thirty years. What had existed for centuries before are now often scarcely distinguishable. No doubt the practice of travellers taking impressions on moistened paper has been the cause of the destruction of the most interesting paintings in the valley of the Nile. What Turks and Arabs had spared, civilised men have done their best to destroy; and where they have not destroyed, they have deadened colours once the most brilliant.

As we came down the river we moored near the village of Beni-Hassan, where we procured donkeys, and in a quarter of an hour we came to a beautiful bit of desert, bounded by a bold broken chain of rocks, in which were numerous valleys. The Sheakh's tomb, and the groves of palms on its margin, formed a vivid contrast of colour to our light-yellow pebbly route over the sand, and the rather darker-tinted hills—a charming approach to the Temple of the Diana of the Egyptians.

Ten minutes' ride, still east, brought us to the entrance of one of the valleys I have mentioned, on the south side of which were about a dozen slight excavations, and four on the north side. Immediately

on entering the valley we visited one containing slight remains of decorations. About a hundred paces further, passing numerous excavations, some with fragments of Egyptian cornices, we came to an excavation with the cornice uninjured, and sculpture representing King Alexander, son of Alexander the Great, making an offering of an image of the Goddess of Truth to the Goddess Diana (Pasht), with, as usual, the head of a lioness. In the centre of the cornice is the winged globe and serpents. The interior of this excavation is much injured.

Two minutes' further walk, passing a portion of the rock, which has evidently been cut, brought us to the Speos Artemidos. The first chamber is an open portico, which was divided by two rows of pillars, the front row only remaining. The portico was never finished, but on the south side there is some beautiful sculpture in the best style of Egyptian art, and still retaining, especially the hieroglyphics, much of their colouring, representing on the west side King Osirei making offerings of incense and ointment to Diana (Pasht) seated on her throne. In the next picture is Pasht standing (her head defaced) and the god Thoth is addressing the king. On the east side of the doorway, leading into the interior, the sculpture is more injured; but King Osirei, whose prenomen can just be made out, is represented on his knees before Amun Ra, and behind him is Pasht, and a

tablet of hieroglyphics, in which the name of Thothmes will be seen. In the corner of this tablet are twelve divinities seated, each holding the cross of life —very much defaced now, but some of the names may be read: Mandoo, Atmoo, Tafne, in the first row; Isis, Neith, and Seb, in the second; and Athor, Horus, and Nephthys, in the third. The hieroglyphics being so well executed, and retaining their colour, make these pictures very interesting.

The portico leads, by a deep doorway, ornamented with a long tablet of hieroglyphics and sculpture, representing on each side the king making offerings to Pasht, into the naos, which was never finished; but close under the roof is a niche, ornamented with the Egyptian cornice, and some hieroglyphics, bearing the name of Osirei; and on one side of the doorway is a representation of Pasht, standing with the crux ansata. Few excursions on the Nile are more agreeable than the visit to this interesting little temple of the Diana of the Egyptians.

A quarter of an hour after we left the Speos we came to the ruins of the old village of Beni-Hassan, which, being a nest of thieves, was destroyed by Mohammed Ali, rather an Oriental way of purifying the moral atmosphere of a rural district. As the peasants escaped he did not eradicate the disease, the people of this neighbourhood having still a bad reputation.

In half an hour from there, with the assistance of the men pushing my donkey, I was able to ride up to the Grottoes of Beni-Hassan.

CHAPTER VII.

Roda—The Mounds of Sheakh Abaydeh—Tombs of the Saints—The Minaret of Melawé—The Mountain of El Bersheh—Appearance of the Country—Sugar Manufactory—Groups of Grottoes—The Six Minarets of Manfaloot—Crocodile Pits—The Town of Sioot—The Bazaar—Visit to the Baths—Cemetery of Lycopolis—The Stabl Antar—John of Lycopolis—Progress of Sioot—Strange Incident—Burning of a Boat—Egyptian Women—Range of Yellow Hills—Gebel Sheakh Hereedee—Village of E' Raaineh—Egyptian Superstition—An Englishman attacked by the Peasantry—Tombs in the Rocks—Continuation of Mountain Range—Akhmim—Remains of the Ancient City of Panopolis—Excavations—Mensheéh—Splendid Crops of Doorah—Picturesque Groups of Villagers—Girgeh—Destructive Effect of the Inundations of the Nile—Ramble in the Bazaars.

We left Beni-Hassan, and, passing Sheakh Timay, came to Roda, and its neat-looking sugar manufactory, with its five chimneys. Nearly opposite is Sheakh Abaydeh (Antinoe). We saw its mounds from our boat, but, as the wind was favourable, we credited the hand-book that there is little now worth seeing there.

I visited these mounds on my first voyage up the Nile, and certainly the extent of them—according to

the hand-book, six thousand feet by three thousand four hundred feet—is very imposing; and although every fragment of the limestone remains may now be taken for lime and buildings, the remains of granite columns, and the lines of the principal streets and traces of the form of the theatre and other edifices, must still make them worth seeing. They have also the charms of association, being the remains of a splendid city, erected by Adrian in favour of his favourite Antinous, who drowned himself in the Nile to secure the happiness of the emperor, an oracle having declared that could only be secured by the sacrifice of what was most dear to him.

Soon we passed, on the west bank, a sugar manufactory, and, immediately afterwards, Reramoon, a neater Arab village than usual, divided by a splendid sycamore tree.

Nearly opposite is E' Dayr e' Nakhl, a village inhabited by Copts, but no cleaner than those of the Mohammedans. There, they say, is a large convent. On the same side of the river is a bold range of rocks, like a huge wall, called Sheakh Said.

Soon afterwards the fine rock of Sheakh Said rises almost perpendicularly from the river, and at the foot of it is a grove of acacias and the tomb of the saint. All these mountains may be considered the same eastern, or Arabic, chain, but they receive these different names from the little white-washed,

square-domed tomb of the Sheakh, or saint, generally a harmless, unfortunate lunatic, treated for his very defects always with kindness, often with reverence when alive, and honoured as a saint when dead. To erect such a tomb, or spend money in keeping it in order, is one of the most meritorious acts a Mussulman can perform, and there are few who have not implicit faith in their efficacy to intercede for them and heal, or avert, the ills of life.

There are tombs of these saints near all the dangerous passes of the Nile, to whom the sailors, though not always the most devout Mohammedans, frequently pray for a safe passage.

If a pleasant breeze often prevents our visiting interesting places, the pleasure it affords would almost compensate the most zealous antiquaries. More agreeable yachting cannot be imagined. No sea-sickness, no danger—ladies may enjoy it as well as men. The ranges of the Sheakh Said hills are bolder and more picturesque as they approach the river, but when there are no fine rocks, there are always the rich and ever verdant banks, with their villages and groves of palms, and the now noble and wide river, with often a score of boats visible, with their picturesque white sails, sometimes with one large sail, and often with two crossing each other like swans with both wings extended. Then there are boats floating down the river, frequently with the

crew asleep, or certainly not visible—trusting to Providence to take care of them.

Travellers often complain that, when the northerly wind prevails, they get no exercise, and find it difficult even when they are tracking. Sometimes the banks are too muddy, sometimes too rocky, and sometimes too steep and friable, to climb, there being no slight danger of the rich earth coming down in a mass if you attempt to climb it, or venture in some places too near the edge. I take my exercise, morning and evening, on my lower deck, having a space of thirty feet between my cabin and the kitchen, taking care to have it well washed to free it from fleas, and, perhaps, something worse.

We passed, on the west, the beautiful looking minarets of Melawe, a bender, or town, with a very extensive tract of rich land between it and the river. Soon, on the east side, the cultivated land is not, in some parts, above one hundred yards wide, but is covered with rich crops of doorah and groves of palms, above which rises the bold mountain of El Bersheh, in which are about eighty excavated tombs. Afterwards there is no cultivated land on that side, the mountain rising boldly from the river; and above a line of excavations is the Sheakh's tomb, wildly and picturesquely situated.

Unfortunately we allowed the breeze to carry us past the tombs of Tel el Amarna, which I have never

seen, and on my return not a donkey was to be got, and the walk there, two or three miles, was too much for an invalid.

At Gerf Hassan there is a new-looking sugar manufactory, built by a son of Abbas Pasha, another proof that the reigning dynasty has done much for Egypt. The desert on the eastern bank reaches to the Nile, and in the distance are the uninteresting hills of Gebel Howarte.

The country was flat until we approached El Kossayr, where we had, on our left, Gebel Aboofayda, a lofty perpendicular range, not quite so level on their summit. In about two hours the rocks became bolder and more picturesque, rising quite perpendicularly from the river.

We sailed, with a stiff breeze, through a narrow passage almost close under them, four of the men attending to our sail; and well they might in such a dangerous gusty place, and no ballast yet in our vessel. The danger did not, however, prevent them taking their usual cup of coffee. Last year my réïs refused to pass these rocks with a very strong wind; and he was right, for if we had not, when one great gust caught us, let go the sail quickly, our boat would have been upset. Before the channel widens, under a magnificent rock there are extensive quarries, and in a kind of dyke, or break of the chain of rocks, are the mud ruins of walls and arches—a strange wild site for a town.

Shortly afterwards we passed grottoes, which do not appear to have been tombs, and saw quantities of wild-fowl.

As we were leaving the range we saw, in one group, about forty grottoes, which appear to have been tombs; and, at a short distance, another group, equally numerous.

The river took a sudden bend as we came in sight of the six minarets of Manfaloot. This is also a bender, or one of the large towns of the Nile, celebrated for the crocodile pits, about sixteen miles distant, but only three from Shalagleel, a village further south. Mr. Leigh's attempt to discover them, causing the death of two of their three guides, from the heat and bad air, will be familiar to all acquainted with the literature of the Nile. The access to them is now well known, and though difficult and unpleasant from the heat and smell, is not dangerous. It is considered, by the young traveller on the Nile, as one of the undertakings that must be accomplished, and though the large chamber, filled with the mummies of crocodiles of all sizes, must be an extraordinary and awful sight, I should doubt whether any one would consider the visit worth the inconvenience.

Though the town of Manfaloot consists entirely of mud buildings, without any relief of colour, except what is afforded by three or four houses, and the minarets of its mosks, it is, however, very impos-

ing, from its great extent along the margin of the river. The palm-trees mingled with the buildings, and the numerous vessels moored at the banks, break the monotony of its outline.

The next day, passing Howarte, a village on the right, with a pretty minaret, we came to Sioot, the ancient Lycopolis, or city of the wolves, still retaining its ancient Egyptian name, and now the capital of the Saeed, or Upper Egypt—one of the few towns on the Nile worth visiting. Twenty minutes' ride over a raised causeway, shaded in some parts by acacias perfuming the air, and very requisite when the Nile waters cover the plain instead of the present luxurious crops of wheat, brought us to a handsome gate and the enclosure of the Pasha's palace.

The town, which looks very large for its population, of only 25,000, is picturesque in the distance, from the number of mosks with generally elegant minarets; for though some of the latter are too much of the tallow-candle shape, many of them almost rival those of the Cairo mosks, in the richness of their machicolations.

The chief bazaar is a very long one, and covered, to protect it from the sun, with openings only in the roof to admit light and air. It cannot be compared to the Cairo bazaars, not being enriched like them with beautiful bits of architecture and elegant wood-work, but the shops and the people are sometimes more pic-

turesque, more thoroughly oriental, there being no alloy of Frank costumes and European merchandise. The shops are not decorated, as they too often are at Cairo, to attract the notice of their best customers, the English, on their way to and from India, but entirely to gratify the simple wants and tastes of a purely Mohammedan population. The little variety, and the simplicity of the articles on sale, remind us, there at least, "that man wants but little here below."

Seated before some of the stalls were venerable sheakhs, with wrinkled, sun-stained brows and flowing beards; while other stalls were attended to by almost children, far more sharp in bargaining than their sires. Red tarboushes (skull caps) and shoes, cheap, gay, gaudy maulins and pipe-bowls, for which the place is famous, were the most attractive wares. Several stalls, however, exhibited far more costly articles of sale than are to be bought in any other provincial bazaar. The richest and the most attractive were the saddle-cloths for horses, three to four pounds each. Many were embroidering in the crowded bazaar the gold elegant arabesque patterns on Utrecht velvet.

Close adjoining to one of the richest shops was a barber shaving a peasant in the open air, undisturbed by noise or crowd. We bought nothing but oranges, which were delicious.

There are excellent baths here, which I visited on my first voyage up the Nile. The exterior of the

building was not remarkable. The first room we entered was an octangular chamber formed of lofty arches of brick, and a kind of stage on one side, ornamented with two fine antique pillars brought from some ancient edifice. In the centre of this room was a large stove, elevated three feet from the ground. From this room we passed into a small room, moderately heated; and there we undressed, and wrapped round us a couple of napkins. Thus equipped, the slippery floor requiring assistance, we were led into the bath, a very large room ornamented with arches, supported by pillars.

In the centre of the room, as in the first chamber, was a stove, or sudatorium, on which we laid ourselves full length, and men, with no other covering than a napkin round the loins, set to work scrubbing us with a brush in grand style. In the centre of the sudatorium was a fountain, which threw out a jet a few feet high of hot water, which was continually poured upon us. After this operation, we had a kind of sherbet presented to us of hot sugar and water, and the sheeshah (or water pipe), a delightful kind of smoking.

The barber then appeared, and trimmed our whiskers, moustachios, and beards, and, without lathering them, shaved our heads. This was accomplished very adroitly and in a very short time, the heat of the bath moistening the hair, and rendering the operation

easy. Two minutes at the most, after the word was given, my thick crop of hair was strewed on the floor. Of course those who do not wear the tarboush, or turban, and oriental dress—unnecessary in these days —would not part with their locks.

After this operation we were led to a small seat, in the same room, and most thoroughly lathered with soap, rather a painful part of the process, as it is impossible to keep the eyes so close that the soap does not enter. The man then threw on us an immense quantity of exceedingly hot water, the effect of which was extremely luxurious.

We were then led into the room where we undressed, which we found rather chilly after the extreme heat of the sudatorium. We reposed on beds with clean sheets prepared for us, for about an hour, a man all the time kneading us with his fists, and twisting our fingers, legs, arms, &c., the latter operation rather painful for the moment, but afterwards productive of a delicious thrill. The barber then appeared again, and trimmed the nails of our hands and feet. At intervals during these operations we took cups of coffee, and a few puffs of the water pipe.

The peasants pay one penny for the bath, and others more, according to their rank; to have the bath to ourselves, and the barber, clean linen, café, pipes, &c., cost us one shilling and ninepence each, but would have cost us more had it not been Ramadan,

and before sunset, the usual time in that month for taking the bath; for then there are such crowds, the sacrifice of keeping them out would have been greater.

I shall never forget that on our way to our boat after that bath we heard some cries of distress, and hastening to the spot, fortunately arrived in time to prevent a brutal Turk committing violence on his servant boy, a youth of about twelve years of age, who was most thankful to us for having saved him from the monster's hands.

Twenty minutes' ride from the town of Sioot over another causeway leads to the ancient cemetery of Lycopolis, a picturesque mountain covered with excavated tombs. Five ranges of them may be counted, none of them, they say, containing any sculpture worth visiting; but if I had been strong enough, I should have liked to explore them all. Fragments of the mummies of wolves are found, and on a former visit I carried away a head of one as a remembrance of Lycopolis.

The tomb called the Stabl Antar, which is one of the lowest range, is easy of access, and is well worth visiting. The ride to it over the rich plain, passing the white-domed sepulchres of the picturesque burial-ground of the Sheakhs of Sioot, is very pleasing. The telegraph wires along the causeway, and the substantial bridge over the canal near this cemetery, are proofs as strong as the little appearance of poverty in the

bazaars, that Sioot, like every other place in Egypt, has made great progress.

The Stabl Antar still retains its fine proportions, and its lofty arched-shaped roofs, but has almost entirely lost the beautiful designs which decorated them. A few, however, may still be traced occasionally, and figures, and well-executed hieroglyphics. Most of the tombs of the Saeed, and even the caverns of the Oasis Magna, have been the residence of the monks, anchorites, and Christians, who, in times of persecution, are described as peopling the deserts of Upper Egypt. Many of these men, from their wisdom, reflection, habits, austere lives, and odour of sanctity, were consulted as oracles; but it is very rarely that the locality, even of the abodes of these celebrated hermits, can be ascertained.

John of Lycopolis, who was supposed to have the gift of miracles, and the knowledge of futurity, resided here in a cell (probably one of these) fifty years, devoting five days of the week to meditation and prayer, and the Sundays to receiving the supplicants that came to him from every part of the Christian world. Here he is said to have received the envoy of Theodosius, and promised the Emperor an infallible victory (see Gibbon). The view from the Stabl is very beautiful of the large city, with its dozen mosks, groves of palm-trees, acacias, the magnificent plain, and the river, enlivened with the white sails of

a score of boats, and in the distance a range of yellow hills.

One of those accidents that travellers are liable to on the Nile occurred two or three nights before my arrival here. The boat of an American gentleman was burned to the water's edge. The gentleman had retired from his chief cabin with a candle in his hand, and a cigar in his mouth. Soon after his return they perceived a smell of fire, and he and his two daughters, and an English gentleman, their guest, had only time to walk ashore, leaving everything they had, clothes, jewellery, papers, instruments, &c. Fortunately a friend's boat came up when the fire was raging, and took them in. The gentleman having several times previously set fire to his deck cushions with his cigar, it is difficult to entertain a doubt of his having caused the accident. The only one that could be suggested was, that the pilot had a day or two previously asked to go ashore, when the wind was so strong against them that they were scarcely making any progress, and the gentleman said he might go when they got to Sioot. "Oh!" said the man, "you will never get to Sioot," meaning, of course, on account of the violence of the contrary wind which did at that time last many days.

A court, constituted, I believe, of vice-consuls at Cairo, decided that the gentleman was not liable, chiefly on the ground (says scandal), that if they did

not, there would be boats burned every season. The gentleman laid forty pounds on the table for the canteen, and one hundred pounds for the boat, and offered these sums to the owner, who, being an Oriental, proverbially slow in all their bargains, hesitated accepting a quarter of the sum he had claimed. The gentleman took up the money, started immediately by the railway for Alexandria, and very soon from there for Europe, without giving a farthing, regardless of the entreaties and telegram of the unfortunate Dragoman, that if he would give him the money he had offered, he would accept it with thankfulness. I think if travellers burn their boat they should pay for it.

A favourable breeze carried us pleasantly from Sioot to Abooteég, an ancient town on the west bank. With the wind scarcely strong enough to master the current, we then coasted beneath a long range of yellow hills, almost perfectly flat, and unbroken at their summit, but rising precipitately from a narrow slip of cultivated land, beautifully planted with palms and acacias, especially near E' Raaineh, which we passed at noon. There were numerous peasants on the banks with goats and sheep. For one of the latter they asked sixty piasters, and we paid thirty-three for a lamb.

After an hour's sail the hills make a great bend to the east, surrounding a partially-cultivated plain.

The summit of the range still continues perfectly flat, giving to the rocks in the distance the appearance of a huge natural wall, separating the valley of the Nile from the eastern desert. Numerous excavated tombs at the commencement of this bend, and at other places, remind us continually of the very different people who occupied the plain, where are now only Arab huts.

At six o'clock we passed the fine bold projecting termination of the mountain called Gebel Sheakh Hereédee. It was formerly celebrated for its serpent, which, it is said, cured all manner of diseases, and the Sheakh, whose white tomb is near the river, has now the merit of being equally useful to the devotees who visit his sepulchre.

Winding round this bold rock we found the range extends towards the south. It is generally level at the summit as before, but the side is almost perpendicular, picturesquely broken, and apparently ending in another bold cliff, as imposing as Sheakh Hereédee. The fringe of green palm-trees at the base forms a striking contrast to the bare yellow mountains, and acts as some sort of a scale to enable us to estimate their great height. The broken surface of some of the rocks afforded fine masses of light and shadow, and, illuminated with the rays of a glorious sunset, was very beautiful.

At the end of the range the rocks are quite perpen-

dicular for two-thirds of their height, which may be about three hundred feet, the other third consisting of sand or decomposed rock, sloping to the river. At the base of the perpendicular part there are many tombs. To this grand range of rocks succeed three other ranges, each appearing, as we approached them, a degree lower than the other, and all quite flat on their summits. They appear extending so much to the west as almost to bar our passage south.

We were becalmed at E' Raaineh, the second village of that name, for the night. Like most Arab villages, it has picturesque pigeon-houses on its roofs. The peasants here attacked, some years ago, an Englishman, who fired at the pigeons on their houses, wounding him with a lance, and bastinadoing his dragoman.

Soon after starting we observed tombs in the rocks, with fragments of columns at their entrances. Not having a wind we should have visited them, but the Hand-book says they contain no sculpture.

Continuing our route, the mountain ranges, like vast walls, succeeded each other, with fringes of green doorah, or Indian corn, at their bases, and occasional groves of palm-trees. The dreariness of our voyage was broken, some would think increased, by the monotonous chants of nine of our sailors towing the boat, and of the almost naked peasants

working at the shadoofs. Sometimes peasants with flocks of sheep, herds of camels, and occasionally an Arab quarrel enlivened the scene. The women with light steps, and often graceful forms, carrying on their heads large vases, in form almost like the ancient Hydrias, filled with water, often on unlevel ground, without touching them with their hands, are really one of the wonders of the Nile. We bought a fresh supply of chickens at a village at sixpence apiece. A breeze springing up, we passed the village Soohag on the west bank. Those who take an interest in the Christian antiquities of the Nile, and have health and strength, which I have not, for a fatiguing excursion, should go from this place to the Dayr el Abiad, the White Convent, and the Dayr el Ahmar, the Red Convent.

We soon arrived at Akhmim, formerly one of the most important cities of the Thebaid, and still, from its battlemented pigeon-houses, mingled with palms, and some minarets, rather imposing from the river, which now flows close to the town. The bazaar is poorly supplied, but wider and more airy than usual. Behind the town are some immense stones, the remains of the ancient city of Panopolis, or Chemmis. One of them, measuring nine paces by three, has on it the Greek inscription, which has often been copied, identifying the site of the temple of Pan; and strange to say, the wives of Akhmim, following the fashion of

the ancients, are said to address their vows to these relics for a numerous offspring. The view, from the ruins of the cemetery, of the town, and its mosks and palm-trees, is rather pretty. Excavations are now being made here, and the remains of an interesting temple discovered.

Next morning we passed Menshéëh, a considerable village on the west bank, and though built on the mounds of an ancient city, the river is in some places washing away the houses. A number of boats, moored to the quay, indicate the extensive commerce of the town. Close to the Nile we only see splendid crops of doorah, often growing from about eight to ten feet high, which the peasants consume themselves; but their wheat, which they cultivate more inland, they send to Cairo, where it is generally sold from one hundred and twenty to two hundred piasters an ardeb. The citizens and people of the metropolis never eat doorah, even now that considerable distress exists there from the dearness of all the necessaries of life.

It is often amusing tracking close to the villages; the picturesque groups, of all ages and sexes, are interesting, and, as I have said, to enliven the scene, there is always some dispute.

On the east bank we have still the range of yellow mountains, which appears to terminate at a short dis-

tance from us, but in the distance another lower range is seen.

The best dressed people in the villages, besides the usual loose blue dress, wear still the becoming white turbans round their red tarboushes. The children run about quite naked, but the adults are a degree more delicate than they used to be.

Towards evening, with a slight breeze, we coasted under Gebel é Howdee, a bold precipitous rock, full of little caves, and sailed along a picturesque broken cliff, containing some tombs, and as we approached Girgeh admired its appearance in the distance.

Girgeh is situated close to the river. A grove of palms conceals its Arab houses, above which tower two graceful minarets, and in the distance is a range of broken yellowish mountains. Before landing at Girgeh, we were dragged along the old town, where not only the houses but several mosks have been almost entirely washed away by the river, and several others seem endangered. The town has a most ruinous appearance, but occasionally picturesque, especially at one point, where the stone walls and fine ruined arches and columns of a mosk are seen; and also the well-proportioned minarets of several mosks adjoining. These arches are the remains of one of the finest mosks at Girgeh, and another year or two's inundation will utterly destroy the arches

and the minarets that are still standing. Girgeh was formerly the capital of Upper Egypt.

We rambled in the bazaars, which are very old and curious, some were shaded from the sun, and all crowded with picturesque groups of peasants. The articles for sale were of the rudest and cheapest description. Fine melons were in great abundance, and it is a good place for purchasing a stock of turkeys, the price being only one shilling and threepence apiece.

CHAPTER VIII.

Arabat el Matfoon, the Ancient Abydus—Important Excavations—Entrance to the Great Temple of Osiris—Interesting Sculptures—Beautiful Temple buried in the Sand—Sculptures representing Osiris—Remarks on Egyptian Mythology—Belief in an Eternal God, and Deification of His Attributes—Origin of Egyptian Mythology—The Animal Worship of the Egyptians—Belief in the Immortality of the Soul, and its Migration through the bodies of Animals—Arrival at the Village of Bellianeh—Farshoot—Groves of the Dom, or Fan-leaved Palm—The Sportsman's Mansion—The Kasr é Syad Range of Rocks—The Village of Dishne—Ruins of Dendera—Temple of Athor—Sculptures of the Portico—Interior and Exterior of the Temple—Temple of Isis—Representations of the Goddess Athor—Egyptian Scenery and Architecture—Anecdote Illustrative of the Value of Money formerly in Egypt.

On my return to Girgeh in the spring I made an excursion to Abydus, the modern name of which is Arabat el Matfoon (the buried). It is a three hours' ride from here, and only two from Bellianeh, a village further south; but tolerable horses can be got here, and at Bellianeh probably only indifferent donkeys. Our route lay over a vast plain covered with splendid crops of wheat in ear, and there were a great number

of small enclosures, made of the doorah stalks; some open at the top, and many with the stalks inclined, forming arches. These temporary habitations are erected after the Nile retires, and have a very patriarchal appearance, from the picturesque groups surrounding them—women with their faces most carefully covered, children, camels, cows, sheep, goats, dogs, and some unusually fine short-horned bulls.

Two hours' ride brought us to a large village, very picturesque, with its white pigeon-houses on the roofs, and groves of palms, with the desert and a grand chain of rocks behind, flat and unbroken but very fine from being almost perpendicular. Abydus shared with Philæ and other places the reputation of having the body of Osiris; and it is recorded in the hieroglyphics that the great and wealthy of the land were buried in this sacred territory to enjoy, when life's toils were over, the odour of its sanctity.

The temples are worthy of its reputation, and the Museums of Europe are enriched with treasures taken from this place. Only last year some most magnificent and beautiful gold ornaments crowned the excavations made here for the Pasha under the direction of Signor Marietti.

Fifty minutes' ride over the desert behind this village brought us to the present entrance of the Great Temple of Osiris, ornamented with sculpture representing Rameses II. making offerings to Ré; this

leads into a hall containing fourteen columns with the papyrus bud capital and seven polygonal columns with the Doric capital. Two of the latter are excavated now to their circular base, the other columns only half-way down the shafts. On the latter and on the walls King Osirei I. is represented making offerings to Osiris and Athor, and presenting garlands of flowers and libations to Isis.

On one side of this hall the sculpture is very beautiful, admirable as elsewhere in the style, and retaining much of its colour. The king is seen, with the head-dress of the blue helmet, between Horus and Isis, both holding the graduated staff of the panegyries, and below this subject the same divinities are addressing the king. Further on, King Osirei on his knees is offering incense to Osiris on a beautifully painted throne. Isis is seated on a more faded throne behind the king, with one hand on his head, and holding the staff of the panegyries in the other. Below this subject are Horus and the king, and Pthah, with the head-dress and attribute of Anubis, embracing the king. Further on the king is making offerings to Amun Ra, seated on a throne, Osiris also seated behind him.

Four doorways ornamented with sculpture, representing the same king making offerings to Osiris and Isis, lead into as many chambers with arched-shaped

roofs, cleared out almost to the floors. The sculpture in the last is the best preserved, and retains some remains of colour. The king Osirei is represented making offerings to Osiris and Amun Ra, and to the sacred ark of Kneph, with a ram's head and horns at each end, and containing a shrine and flabella.

Behind this room is another partly excavated with an arched-shaped roof and polygonal columns. There are doorways leading out of the great hall to courts ornamented with columns with bud-shaped capitals, bearing the name of Rameses II., but these rooms and the rest of the temple remain still uncleared, the immense masses of stone forming the roof are only to be seen.

A few paces south of this temple is a similar roof of another temple, entirely buried in the sand. This great temple of Osiris must have rivalled any in the valley of the Nile, for the elegant simplicity and grandeur of the architecture, and the beauty of the sculpture in slight relief. The site of these ruins is also most interesting; the bleak, wild desert, and grand chain of mountains on one side, and the brilliant verdure of the immense plain on the other.

Five minutes' ride from these ruins are the remains of another beautiful temple, retaining fragments of colouring. At the end, towards the desert, in what appears to have been a side room of the sanctuary, is

an interesting representation of the king making offerings before a shrine, behind which are seated exquisite representations of the deities—Netre, Selk, and Athor, all wearing the same head-dress of a vulture, and a kind of basket, the colouring quite vivid, as if very lately uncovered. On the door of the room is the name of Rameses II.

There are great masses of granite in the sanctuary, before which were two courts, which appeared to have been ornamented with eight columns each; and on the wall of the second are some beautiful representations of the divinities of the Nile, and on the great masses of the grey granite doorway which led to it, is the name again of Rameses II., and representations of Thoth and Osiris. The temple is not cleared out from this court to the remains of a large granite gateway, which was the principal entrance into the temple; but on one fragment I observed the name of Athor. On the gateway are the same names of the king and divinities.

The great temple I have described erected in honour of the god Osiris, and the homage paid to that divinity in every city, temple, and tomb in the valley of the Nile, are strong evidence (notwithstanding the dubious authority of the classics, and that some hieroglyphics call him the son of Seb), that he was one of the earliest and probably the greatest of the Egyptian

divinities. Osiris and Isis are the Nile and Egypt.* Whatever types of the divinity were peculiarly worshipped in the different cities, due reverence was always paid to Osiris, the greatest of all the gods.† The sculptures prove indubitably that Osiris was the judge of the world; and the book of the dead shows how every mortal had to justify himself before the great judge of Amenti. The inhabitants of Thebes and other places sought permission, as I have said, to have sepulchres in this his holy city.‡

According to Manetho's chronology, given by Syncellus, Osiris and Isis were among the seven deities who reigned before the demi-gods and kings; and Herodotus says § that Isis was the greatest of all the deities, and that she enjoyed with Osiris the same honours through every part of Egypt, a privilege not granted to the other gods. Wilkinson admits ‖ that Osiris, in his office of judge of Amenti, and as the object of the most sacred and undivulged mysteries, held a rank above all the gods of Egypt.

No traveller can fully and deeply appreciate the pictorial representations on the temples and tombs of Egypt who does not allow that all intelligent Egyptians (at least in the earliest times) believed in an

* Bunsen's Egypt, vol. i., p. 437.
† Herodotus, ii., 40.
‡ Wilkinson, M. and C., 2nd series, i., 346.
§ Herodotus, ii., 42.
‖ Wilkinson, M. and C., 2nd series, i., 314.

eternal God, from whom all the other deities were produced. *

* The divinities can only be accurately distinguished by their hieroglyphics, as they often assume the forms of other gods. Within the limit of a note, I can only mention how some of them are generally distinguished:

Amun Ra.—"The Intellectual Sun,"* called in the hieroglyphics the King of the Gods (two long feathers on his cap).

Neph.—† "The Spirit of the Deity," which presided over the creation (a ram's head, &c.).

Pthah (Vulcan)—"The Creative Power of the Deity,"‡ called in hieroglyphics the Lord of Truth (generally mummy-shaped, and almost always with the emblem of stability, with cross bars).

Khem (Pan)—"The Creator of the World," The Generative Principle, The Generating Influence of the Sun § (mummy-shaped, with Amun's feathers).

Sate—"The Egyptian Juno"‖ (with an arrow always in the hieroglyphics).

Maut.—"Nature, the Mother of All" ¶ (a vulture and half circle in the hieroglyphics).

Pasht.—"Bubastis, the Diana of the Egyptians" (cat's head).

Neith.—"The Egyptian Minerva"** (an oval, with two hooks at each end in the hieroglyphics).

Seb.—Called "The Father of the Gods"†† (a goose on his head and in his hieroglyphics).

Osiris, ‡‡ that attribute of the Deity which signifies Divine Goodness (an eye in the hieroglyphics above a throne).

Isis, "The Royal Wife and Sister of Osiris" (a throne, half-circle, and egg in hieroglyphics).

Athor, "The Egyptian Venus" (a hawk in a square in the hieroglyphics).

Ré, "The Sun" (hawk's head, and hawk, with two ovals in hieroglyphics, distinguishing him from Horus, Aroeris, and Hor Hat, who are also represented with a hawk's head).

Anubis, whose office was to superintend the passage of the souls from this life to a future state (always with a jackal's head).

Thoth, "The Egyptian Mercury," the scribe in the sacred rites of Osiris (with the head of the ibis).

Savak, "a deified form of the Sun" §§ (with a crocodile's head).

* Wilkinson, M. and C., vol. i., p. 246. † Ibid, 235-243.
‡ Ibid, 248. § Ibid, 257-264. ‖ Ibid, 266. ¶ Ibid, 271.
** Ibid, 282. †† Ibid, 308. ‡‡ Ibid, 441. §§ Ibid, 230.

As Wilkinson says,* the Divinity was not represented in Egyptian sculptures, and the figures of the gods were deified attributes indicative of the intellect, power, goodness, might, and other qualities of the eternal being. Though the names and titles of all the gods and goddesses can now be read, the mythology of the Egyptians is almost as clouded as the chronology and the exact character of the divinities, and the true meaning of their mysterious rites time only and further discoveries may perhaps fully unfold. The monuments afford no certain evidence of a Sabæan mode of worship so common in the earliest ages in the East, though at a later period the god Ré, the type of the Sun, was greatly honoured; but it is a great and astonishing fact, as Bunsen observes† that the empire of Menes, on its first appearance in history, possessed an established mythology, that is, a series of gods.

There is reason to suppose that the Egyptian mythology is derived originally from Asia. Bunsen's comparison‡ of some of the names of the Egyptian

Thmei, "The Goddess of Truth and Justice" (with a feather on her head, and generally wings).

There are at least forty more Gods and Goddesses, ‖‖ most of them, however, rarely seen except in late times, on Ptolemaic and Roman constructions, when the religion had become more corrupt.

* M. and C., 2nd series, vol. i., p. 179.

† Bunsen's Egypt, vol. i., p. 358.

‡ Bunsen's Egypt, vol. iv., p. 355-6.

‖‖ See Wilkinson's learned work.

gods and goddesses with those of the Syrian, Phœnician and Babylonian divinities, is very striking, and the names of the Asiatic deities can never be made out to be derived from the Egyptian.

The animal worship of the Egyptians, and their great expenses in keeping and embalming the ibis, cats, fish, cows, crocodiles, wolves, jackals, dogs, hawks, serpents, and especially the apis, as we see at Sakkara, and their grief at their death, is not yet sufficiently explained, and that almost all these animals were the symbols of divinities, who are represented with their heads, is remarkable; but the reason why such animals were so honoured in preference to others more useful to man does not appear.

From the book of the dead we learn* that, according to the creed of the Egyptians, the soul of man was divine, and therefore immortal. It was subject to personal responsibility. The consequences of evil actions was banishment from the presence of God.

This view of the connection between the belief in immortality, and that of the migration of the soul through animal bodies, explains the doctrine of animal worship, and the representation of deities with human bodies and animal heads; it is, however, to be remarked that Osiris, the god of the spiritual world, the judge of the soul, has never any but the human form.

* Bunsen's Egypt, vol. iv., p. 648.

The sailors having brought in their stock of bread and strewed it on our cabins for the sun to bake it into biscuit, we set sail with a slight breeze, which soon carried us away from the lofty rocks of Girgeh, and in three hours we arrived at Bellianeh, a considerable village close to the river. The west bank is rich in palm-groves and villages. On the other side there are few, and what there are, we are separated from by islands. The morning being hazy, the very low distant hills are scarcely visible in the distance. At Behares we approached a range of yellow hills, which appeared to cross our path.

A pleasant breeze carried us to Farshoot, a large town, the residence of a Mahmoor, or Governor, coasting close to a range of bold, precipitous yellow rocks. At their base we observed groves of the dom, or fan-leaved palm. On the east bank is a long forest of palms, mingled with acacias, but the chimneys of the sugar manufactories are not picturesque. The views were afterwards flatter than usual, no hills being visible, except a distant range to the south.

The next morning we found that a slight breeze in the night had taken us past Kasr è Syad, or the Sportsman's Mansion, and certainly we saw wild-fowl in abundance to justify the name—vultures, pelicans, and immense flocks of geese. The village looks picturesque in the distance, with its white pigeon-houses on the roofs, giving a height and colouring to the

habitations, generally wanting to the huts of the Arabs, which are almost always of the same brown tint as the soil around them, and of which they are constructed.

The perfect calm we now had was not without its attractions. The fine bold range of rocks of Kasr è Syad was beautifully reflected in the river, which was smooth and shining in the sun as an unclouded mirror, the current not appearing to make the slightest ripple on its surface. In the distance were ranges of the same kind of light-yellow rocks, in perspective lower apparently than the range of Kasr è Syad, flat on their summits, protecting, by a succession of huge walls, the rich and verdant valley of the Nile from the wild and terrible wilderness. It was a view peculiarly Egyptian, and combined all the striking peculiarities of this strange land. The very noises which in the distance disturbed but slightly the delightful calmness of the scene, were characteristic of the country. The laborious peasants chanting as they toiled, almost naked, at the shadoofs, boatmen singing melodious choruses as they rowed down the stream, and sometimes immense flocks of geese and ducks cawing prodigiously, as in long files, almost in battle array, they flew over our heads apparently journeying to Nubia, like ourselves, seeking a warmer, dryer, and more genial climate than even Egypt.

Soon afterwards, having lost sight of the chain of

rocks on our left, the views became monotonous in the extreme, but, for a novelty, we had a chain of hills visible on our right, some of them covered with sand to their summits.

We met several great rafts, made of the large Ballasee jars, universally used in the valley of the Nile for carrying water. Four sailors with boughs of trees for oars guided rather than impelled the raft.

In the evening we arrived at the village of Dishne, on the east bank. The remains of the old village are close to the river, which has destroyed it. The modern village is better built, and is picturesque with its white pigeon-houses, partly screened by groves of acacias and palms. The traffic of the place must be considerable, as I counted seventeen boats moored to the bank.

Opposite to it is an extensive plain of cultivated land, bordered by a low range of mountains. A fresh breeze springing up, we soon arrived at Dendera. The temple of Dendera, the ancient Tentyra, when the Nile waters do not interfere, is only half an hour's ride from the bank; but on my last visit we were an hour in reaching the ruins, the donkey-man believing there was water on the plain, and, unnecessarily as it proved, taking us round by the village of Esbe. We passed through groves of palms and doms, celebrated

in the time of Juvenal: "*Qui vicina colunt umbrosæ Tentyra palmæ.*"

The dom, the great ornament of the Thebaid, and also found in Upper Nubia, and in the Oasis Magna, has a single stem, which a few feet from the ground forks into two branches, and each of these fork in a similar way. The branches terminate in a tuft of large fern-shaped leaves, and the russet-brown coloured fruit, of the size of potatoes, which grow in clusters, consists of a very hard nut, covered by a fibrous substance, which has quite the taste of ginger-bread, but so hard it is eaten only in Ethiopia.

The extensive brick ruins of Dendera, considerably elevated above the plain, are situated near the foot of a ridge of rather broken hills. The remains of an unimportant pylon leads to the principal temple of Athor, which was cleared out by Abbas Pasha.

The first view of the exterior of the temple, with its plain walls, now destitute of colour, will, perhaps, disappoint many, but the beautiful portico will speedily remove this impression. The cornice of the portico is richly decorated with alternately winged globes and winged serpents, wearing the pschent overshadowing the royal names and titles of the Emperor Tiberius, who added this splendid portico to the original temple. In the centre of the architrave is the winged globe, the Agathodæmon, and on each

side processions of gods and goddesses, and two figures playing the harp and one the tambourine. Six columns, partly united by screens with capitals of the heads of Athor, above which are square slabs, representing beautifully decorated shrines, with the uræus and the disk, support the architrave.

The interior is now far more imposing than the exterior. The circular bases of the columns resting on square plinths, being now all visible, the magnificent effect of the twenty-four immense columns, with Athor-headed capitals, which, including the six of the façade, adorn the portico, is fully displayed. Though not one of the faces is uninjured, their beautiful expression may still be traced. The architecture is heavy and the style of the sculpture bad, but the general effect is, nevertheless, so striking that this portico will ever be considered one of the architectural wonders of the Nile.

Every portion of the portico, I may say of the temple, is covered with sculpture, representing different Egyptian gods and goddesses. Athor nursing her son, and receiving offerings especially over the heads of Athor, of the huge columns forming the centre avenue of the portico, is the most conspicuous subject. The effect of the sculpture is rich, and must have been still more so when beautifully coloured, and doubtless it is very striking to those who are unaccustomed to the purer and more elegant style of

the older dynasties. These sculptures are entirely Roman. The roof of the portico is interesting for its sculptures, representing the signs of the Zodiac; but time, or torches, have dimmed them, and, now the portico is cleared, the height from the floor, being much greater than it was, renders it almost impossible to distinguish them.

Some of the most interesting subjects have been taken away, but with a favourable light, the roof is, however, still beautiful; the part where divinities are represented in boats sailing round the world is the best preserved. The masonry of this grand portico will astonish those who take an interest in architecture. Built eighteen hundred years ago, the junction of the stones can scarcely be seen; nor will they admire less the beautiful perspective effect of the four rooms leading from the portico, the entrances into them diminishing gradually in size, and their decorations, especially the winged globe over each, visible from the grand portico. The first room leading from the portico is ornamented with six columns, but the Ptolemaic capitals, with the heads of Isis above, are much injured. This leads to two rooms and the isolated sanctuary, and at the side of this centre suite are seventeen lateral chambers and corridors, but candles are requisite to explore them thoroughly. The exterior of the temple is worth examining. On the north side there are conduits by which the rain-

water was carried from the roof, decorated with lions, heads, some perfect and well sculptured.

On turning to the back of the temple, the first figure is the celebrated Cleopatra, wearing, for head-dress, the horned globe and feathers, and offering behind Ptolemy Cæsarion, her son, a vase and a shrine to the god Horus. The face is much injured, but the expression is pleasing. The nose is a little longer and straighter than usual, especially in the repetition of her portrait still more injured at the south end of the same back wall; and there is no doubt they are intended for likenesses of the celebrated Egyptian queen. Though I am not one who

"Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt,"

I think if these portraits are examined attentively, and allowance made for the conventionalities of style, beauty may still be traced. The total length of the temple is two hundred and sixty-six feet, the breadth of the back ninety-five feet six inches. Immediately behind the great temple is a small one of Isis, not remarkable for the architecture, but beautifully decorated. Isis, Thoth, and Horus are the chief divinities represented. The cow the Sepoys are said to have worshipped I did not see. The pylon belonging to this temple, to the east, is scarcely worth going to, except for its Greek inscription, which has been often copied.

On the right of the small pylon, leading to the great temple, is a small Typhonium, or lying-in place, built and decorated with sculpture by the Romans. The columns on the side of the temple of Athor are finished, and, as far as they are clear, present Ptolemaic capitals, on which are Typhonian figures down to their knees, with head-dresses of feathers, and holding in each hand wreaths of lotus-flowers. The sculpture in the interior is interesting. The numerous representations of Athor nursing her son, and Thoth very busy marking his graduated staff, justify this place being called, by Champollion, the lying-in place of the goddess. Among the mounds of brick ruins are numerous fragments of stone buildings.

The magnificent portico of the great temple, and almost all the sculpture which in every part enriches it, are some of the many proofs in the valley of the Nile of the deference of the Romans for the religion of the Egyptians.

Athor was, however, the Egyptian Venus. Her head-dress is almost similar to that of Isis, and she is only to be distinguished from that goddess by her hieroglyphics. Both these divinities were worshipped by the Romans, but they would scarcely have gone to the expense of erecting one of the grandest porticoes, for its architecture, in the valley of the Nile, if it had not been their policy to conciliate the people subject to their dominion.

The magnificent temples erected by the Ptolemies and Romans, in deference to the religion of the Egyptians, "as if in obedience to the oft-repeated answers of the Delphic Oracle: 'The gods should everywhere be worshipped according to the laws of the country,'" * will often excite the surprise of travellers on the Nile.

On approaching and leaving Dendera, and observing the temple at a distance, with the usual ridge of flat hills behind, it is difficult to avoid the conviction that it is the flatness of the ranges of hills in Egypt, their long horizontal lines, which may be the origin of their extreme fondness of the horizontal line in architecture. To English architects, who have such a dread of it, continually breaking it with hideous statues and vases, or generally hybrids between a tea-urn and a vase, this characteristic of Egyptian architecture, carried to such an extreme, must be almost painful. The very simplicity of this style has, however, a certain grandeur. The exterior architecture is the noble frame of the picture—the exquisite columns, the gorgeously, but harmoniously, painted sculpture and hieroglyphics, were the picture; and though Egyptian temples may be more picturesque for the artist when half in ruins and roofless—almost perfect temples, like this one, and more especially Edfoo, give us a greater insight into the tastes and mind of the people.

* Sharpe's Egypt.

A style more suitable to their religion could not have been adopted; the masses of blank wall must have been very attractive when the sculpture retained its colouring. Such colossal representations, visible at a great distance, as those I have mentioned, of Ptolemy and Cleopatra making rich offerings to the divinities, were astute devices to stimulate the people to follow their example. The walls of the edifices of Egypt were a substitute for a press, and taught the people all that was then considered worth knowing—the arts of life—to honour their king, and worship the gods.

My young donkey, not liking the long round by Esbe, took advantage of an opportunity, and set off home alone at a gallop, an awkward accident for an invalid who can walk but little. After an hour's run my men caught it, and we took the hint from the donkey, and crossed the plain, which saved us twenty minutes; but, the animal being a very small one and my legs long, it was not pleasant crossing ploughed fields and undried gutters.

Travellers abuse the peasants they meet near the antiquities as mercenary, and never satisfied with any amount of baksheesh, but do not reflect that it is they who have corrupted them. A little anecdote occurred to me once at Dendera, which I will mention, as illustrative of the value of money formerly in this country, and also of the character of the Arabs.

On my first visit to these antiquities, nearly thirty years ago, two men followed us the whole of the day with goolehs of water to drink—one an old man about seventy, the other about thirty-five, an amazingly strong and powerful fellow; they were both wretchedly clad, a few tattered fragments of brown stuff, the colour of the wool of their sheep, scarcely affording a more ample covering than decency required. Their turbans, made of nets, were rather picturesque, and strikingly characteristic of the manner of earning their scanty subsistence. On leaving the ruins we gave them a piaster to divide between them. They were delighted with the sum, though it was only three pence, but begged us to give them two half-piasters, as neither of them had change to give the other, and they lived in different directions. Being most miserable objects, we gave them another, making one each. They were almost mad with delight, endeavouring to kiss our hands. The old man was profuse in his acknowledgments, and the young one ran off, and in a few moments he appeared again from amongst the ruins, with an immense gun, with a barrel of the shape of a blunderbuss, and, as it was nearly dark, in return for our liberality, he insisted on accompanying us to the bank, a distance of nearly two miles. Not content with this proof of his gratitude, he helped himself, out of a field, to as many beans as he could carry on his shoulders, and with

this burthen he walked on at a rapid rate before us, found us a boat to join our own, and, in spite of our remonstrances, not wishing to receive goods we had every reason to believe stolen, deposited the beans in our boat, and carried us into it through the water.

CHAPTER IX.

Town of Keneh—Proposed Railway Company—Porous Water Jars —Picturesque Village—Impressions on a First Visit to Thebes —The Palace-Temple of Koorneh—The Memnonium, or Palace-Temple of Rameses II.—Beautiful Sculptures—Fragment of a Colossal Statue—Interior Courts of the Great Hall—Battle Scenes —Astronomical Sculptures—Colossal Statues—Vocal Statue of Memnon—Medeenet Haboo—The Site of Thebes—Beautiful Views —Sculpture and Hieroglyphics—Pavilion or Residence of the King—Representation of Rameses III.—Remains of Egyptian Decoration—Sculptures representing Religious Processions of the Egyptians—Representations of Naval and Land Engagements—Small Ptolemaic Temple.

Opposite the ruins of Dendera, but some distance from the river, is the town of Keneh, the residence of a governor. The commerce with Arabia is chiefly carried on from here by way of Kossayr, on the Red Sea. An English company has proposed to make a railway from Cairo to Keneh, 380 miles—from Keneh to Kossayr, 90 miles—and Kossayr to Ras Banas (ancient Berenice), 130 miles—which, they assert, would be a saving of two days for the traffic to India, and save, also, an important portion of the difficult navigation of

the Red Sea. The port of Kossayr, besides being dangerous for coral reefs, is only large enough for brigs, and the harbour, if deserving the name, of Ras Banas, is, I am told by a gentleman who sounded it, far too shallow for a harbour. The Pasha has declined the proposal, preferring to make it himself, but as the Suez Canal is to be carried on, I trust the peasants will not be forced from their fields for another great work.

A great variety of costumes is seen in the bazaars. The town is famous for the porous water-jars and bottles, zeers and goollehs, made of clay found in the adjacent hills, and the sifted ashes of the halfeh grass. The delicious cool water they enable us to enjoy is really one of the greatest luxuries of the Nile, as the water, when filtered, has never any injurious effects. Those who have wintered, as I have, at Algiers, or other parts of Africa, and know with what precautions the water must there be drunk, and that it is only tolerably cool the moment it is drawn from the well, will appreciate the water of the Nile.

On leaving Dendera the views were, for some time, monotonous, but we had a ridge of rocks on our right, which, instead of being quite flat on the summit, as almost all the ranges we have hitherto seen, was lofty in the centre and diminished gradually in height as it extended north and south.

Passing Ballas on the west bank, famous, as I have said, for the rafts of earthen jars which it sends

down the Nile every year, and Kobt, the once considerable town of Coptos, on the east bank, of which some unimportant remains may still be seen, we were becalmed almost all the night.

Next morning we found ourselves opposite a fine semi-circular range of mountains, flat, as usual, on their summits, but their surface broken, and in some parts perpendicular. At their base is a broad strip of cultivated land, covered with rich crops, and groves of palm-trees and acacias. There are numerous villages, but by far the most imposing is the pretty village of Negadèh, on the western bank, the houses being more lofty than usual, and less ruined, though it is situated close to the river. There are Coptic and Catholic convents, but it is chiefly inhabited by Copts.

Opposite this picturesque village is the entrance to an old canal planted with trees, but they say it only extends half an hour's walk.

We tracked for some time along the bank on our right, which was planted with a continuous line of acacias and tamarisks, and ridges of hills were visible in the distance on our left. The river bore for some time towards the west, but when we resumed our southerly course a fresh breeze carried us joyfully to Thebes.

Thebes.

A first visit to Thebes must ever be one of the

most impressive events in every man's life. The gigantic and imposing ruins surpass anything of the kind to be seen elsewhere; and the sculptures which adorn the walls of the temples and tombs are the only pages in which, as far as the knowledge of hieroglyphics extends, we can now with certainty read the principal events of the greatest Egyptian kings, their wars, their triumphs, and their gratitude to the gods, the ceremonies and mysteries of the most mysterious of religions, and the arts, occupations, trades, and private life of the people

The temples of the Memnonium and Medeenet Haboo should be seen before Luxor and Karnak on the opposite bank. On my first visit up the Nile, I spent eight months here, measuring and drawing the temples and tombs, and reading almost all that had been written by ancient and modern writers. Such elaborate and accurate descriptions have been given of every vestige of antiquity on the Theban plains (especially by the author of the Handbook), that I shall merely transcribe the notes of my last visit (as an invalid), to those remains I knew to be best worth visiting, and shall give no details except such as are requisite to describe the present state of the architecture, sculpture, and the recent excavations.

Travellers, on their arrival at Thebes, should have their boat moored as near to the village of Koorneh and its temple as the state of the river will permit.

The first appearance of this temple is not impôsing, and will excite little admiration, but it is well worth examining. Some immense stones, one bearing the name of King Osirei, are all that remain of the courts and pylons which led up to the temple. Ten columns, which formed the western corridor of the court, are now standing.

In describing the temples, which are nearly parallel to the river, I will always describe them as fronting east and west, though this is often far from being their true position. These columns have the capitals of the lotus bud, one of the most elegant of the oldest period. This corridor leads into a hall ornamented with six columns, with bud-shaped capitals, but these capitals, and also the shafts of the columns, are not ribbed, and may therefore be called of the papyrus. This leads into a room, which I think was the sanctuary, from the splendid arks on the walls. Beyond it is another room, and the four pillars which adorned it still support their architraves. On each side of the hall are three small chambers, and there are other lateral rooms, which formed part of the palace.

The sculpture of this building is much broken, but the style is very beautiful, being of the best period of Egyptian art, and besides the processions of arks I have mentioned, represents Rameses II. making offerings chiefly to Amun Ra and his ancestor, Rameses I.

Passing some unimportant vestiges of ancient temples, less attractive than the grand western mountain, beautifully broken and honeycombed with tombs, twenty minutes' ride brought us to the Palace Temple of Rameses, called by the Greeks the Memnonium, from his title of Miamun (beloved of Amun), contained in his phonetic name. This has ever been considered one of the most interesting temples in the valley of the Nile. No Arab or Christian mud huts destroy the effect of the imposing architecture, and the sculpture which decorates the walls is attractive, not only for the important historical subjects represented, but also for the extreme elegance of the style.

The most superficial observer cannot fail to see how the figures and hieroglyphics of this, the Augustan period of Egyptian art, surpass in grace and beauty the clumsy—and, as to the hieroglyphics, almost illegible—sculptures of the Greeks and Romans at Dendera.

The great propylon, now half destroyed, led into a court where there is nothing remaining but a fragment of the most stupendous colossal statue that ever was executed in the world. It excites little admiration now, as not a feature can be traced—except for the beauty of the Syenite granite, of which it is made; but how such a mass, calculated to have weighed when entire eight hundred and eighty-seven

tons, could, in those days, ever have been excavated at Syene, transported to Thebes, erected at this temple, and thus destroyed, must ever be the most difficult problems for antiquarians or engineers to decide.

The sculpture of the east side of the propylon is defaced. On the west side of the northern tower of the propylon may still be distinguished the capture of several Asiatic towns by Rameses II.; the camp, with its rampart of Egyptian shields, full of booty; and the king on his throne, receiving congratulations after his victory. On the same side of the southern tower is a colossal representation of the king discharging his arrows on his enemies, their chariots flying in dismay, and the king with his falchion on the point of sacrificing prisoners (now defaced).

This propylon led into a beautiful court, with a double row of columns, with papyrus bud capitals, on the north and south sides, of which six remain; and on the east and west sides were Osiride pillars, of which eight are still standing, but without their heads. The sculpture on the west side of the northern wall of this court being protected from the weather, is very well preserved, and is extremely spirited and interesting. The enemy, with yellow complexions and features, very different from the Egyptians, is represented flying in their chariots from the victorious Rameses, and endeavouring to reach the river, and the protection of their infantry drawn up before their fortified

city to cover their retreat. Some are represented drowning in the river, and others imploring mercy.

This court leads into the great hall, measuring one hundred feet by one hundred and thirty-three feet, which was ornamented with thirty-eight columns. Eleven of the twelve splendid columns, twenty-one feet in circumference, which formed the centre avenue,* with papyrus or bell-shaped capitals, are still standing; and of the eighteen columns, seventeen feet six inches in circumference, with bud-shaped capitals, which formerly existed on each side of these, twelve on the south, and five on the north side, are perfect.

The papyrus-shaped capitals still retain much of their colouring and beautifully painted decorations; and the hall was covered with sculpture, the best that can be seen in the valley of the Nile. Some of the portraits of the king are very beautiful, especially the one on the second column of the centre avenue, making offerings to the mummy figured god Pthah. The sculpture chiefly represents the king making offerings to the god Amun Ra, often here accompanied by the lion-headed goddess, as well as by Maut and Khonso.

On the west side of the east wall of the grand hall is another battle-scene. The Egyptians, with ladders and the testudo, are besieging a town with battlements on an eminence. The defence is bravely kept

* See Vignette, titlepage.

up; some are falling from the battlements, and one hanging from them: but resistance being useless, they send heralds to the king with presents to beg for mercy. The battle-scenes represent this king's expeditions to Palestine. Bunsen (vol. iii., p. 178) thinks as far as Lebanon and Mesopotamia, but Kanana (Canaan) is the only name clearly identified.

The sculpture is very striking on the west wall of the hall, though the heads of the king and Amun Ra are sadly injured by the clumsy way plaster casts have been taken. The heads in the procession of the twenty-three sons of the king are all defaced, though the hieroglyphics still remain.

The great hall leads into a chamber decorated with eight columns, which still support the roof, on the ceiling of which is an astronomical subject. The Egyptian months are represented, and the rising of the dog-star under the figure of Isis-Sothis.* On the west wall of this room is a beautiful group of sculpture, representing the king in the Persia tree, and the goddess of letters writing his name; and on the eastern wall are sacred arks borne in procession by the priests. This room leads into the last chamber, in which four columns are standing.

The side walls of this beautiful temple being destroyed, the columns are seen to great advantage, and the effects of light and shadow are often very

* See Handbook.

fine. The artist could not wish for a more noble subject for his pencil, with the grand western mountain in the distance.

The celebrated colossal statues, formerly sixty feet, and now fifty-three feet above the level of the soil, are seen not only from every part of this side of the river, but also from every eminence on the opposite bank. It is strange to see them standing on the immense and tenantless plain, and especially, as I have seen them, at the time of the inundation, surrounded with the waters of the Nile, which for centuries have annually washed their feet, isolated from every habitation of man, sole monuments of a magnificent dromos, adorned with other statues almost as imposing as these, which led from the river to the temples of the western suburb.

They are made of a hard gritstone, marked with black and red oxide of iron, and are represented seated on thrones. The form of the head remaining on one can be seen, but not a lineament made out. The northern statue, called by the Arabs Salamat (salutation), is the celebrated vocal statue of Memnon, which had the wonderful property of uttering a melodious sound every morning at sunrise, like the breaking of the string of a harp when it is wound up; while at the setting of the sun, or at night, the sound was lugubrious.

The sides of the thrones are ornamented with

figures, representing the god Nilus binding up a pedestal, over which was the name of the king, Amunoph III., the Phamenoph of Pausanias, who erected them. Outside the legs, attached to the throne, are statues of his wife and mother, and between them the remains of another statue.

Numerous Greek inscriptions, recording the visit of the Emperor Hadrian and others, many of which I copied on my first visit to Thebes, prove beyond doubt that this was the vocal statue of Memnon. The discoveries in hieroglyphics have now as clearly ascertained that the Memnon of the Greeks was the king Amunoph III. of the eighteenth dynasty of the Egyptians, who reigned about the end of the fourteenth century, B.C. When this statue had been destroyed to the throne by the earthquake of B.C. 27, or by Cambyses, as the inscriptions state—or by a more vindictive Ptolemy, as the Handbook suggests—it was repaired with layers of sand-stone, and a hollow was left, in which, as Sir G. Wilkinson has I think clearly made out, the artful priests might, by striking metallic stones, easily produce the sounds described.

The mounds of Christian ruins surrounding the temple of Medéenet Háboo, from their elevated position, are seen distinctly not only from the colossal statues but also from almost every part of the plain of Thebes. They may easily be visited the same day as the ruins I have described, being only a short half-

hour's ride from the statues, but as the attractions of society and the market often lead travellers to Luxor, I will describe my visit from there in December. A pleasant breeze took us across the river in a quarter of an hour, but, as the inundation had not subsided, we could not go direct to the ruins, but were obliged to go round by the village of Esbi Tamrarty.

The approach to Medéenet Háboo is very imposing: the colossal statues on our right; the ruins, having for a background the finest portion of the western mountain, so grand in its form, always broken, honeycombed with innumerable tombs, and many portions of it perpendicular; the mounds of earth which are supposed to have anciently formed an Acherusian lake, over which the boats, so often represented on the walls of the tombs, carried the deceased to their last resting-place, in a kind of palanquin, fortunately found by Mr. Rhind, in a tomb he opened; and the little hamlet of Kom el Beirat, with a great number of Sheakhs' tombs, with their white domes, mingled with acacias, with, except towards the north, a complete amphitheatre of distant hills, formed not only a beautiful view, but impressed us deeply that the site of Thebes was, indeed, worthy of the renowned city.

We had to cross a canal full of water, and another small one, with a very roughly constructed passage of stones, but, after sticking in the mud several times,

an hour's ride brought us to the temple. The inundation had this year reached the mounds of Christian houses which surround these ruins.

Passing, on our left, the battlemented pavilion, or palace, of Rameses III., we entered, by a pylon, greatly destroyed, a court, which had never been finished, of the small temple. Two fine columns with Ptolemaic capitals, ornament the doorway which leads from this court into a corridor before the second pylon, which is nearly perfect. Over the doorway is a beautiful winged globe and serpents, retaining almost all their colouring. The sculpture, and especially the hieroglyphics, representing the king making offerings to the gods, is very indifferent. This leads into a corridor, and afterwards a small hypæthral court, in which there are fragments of eight columns, with screens between them.

The part we have hitherto described was the work of the Romans, but this court is interesting, having been built by Tirhaka, the Ethiopian Pharaoh, whose victories over Sennacherib are recorded in the Bible, another proof, if any were wanting, that an Ethiopian dynasty did reign over the lower as well as the upper valley of the Nile. This court leads into another undecorated with sculpture, but a large fragment of granite encumbering it, and the granite slab of the side doorway show that it was once highly finished.

This leads to the original or isolated sanctuary. The façade is extremely simple, consisting of a low screen and four square pillars, sustaining the architrave and cornice. Rameses III.'s name is carved on the façade in deeply-cut hieroglyphics, a striking contrast to the hieroglyphics of the Romans. Three similar square pillars sustain the roof on each side of the temple; but what are most deserving attention are the four polygonal columns, with circular bases and square slabs for capitals. No one could see these, as well as the similar columns at Beni Hassan, and not be convinced that the Egyptians, and not the Greeks, are the inventors of what is called the Doric column. The corridors lead into inner sanctuaries, which partly retain their roof. The names of Thothmes II. and III., who reigned 1463 B.C., are on the columns and every part of this little temple.

We then visited the pavilion, or residence of the king. The pyramidal towers, with battlements in the form of shields, and plain modern-shaped windows, are different from anything of the kind to be seen in Egypt, and give us a good idea of the residences of the builders of these splendid temples. The view at the entrance is very striking—the two towers rising on each side, with recesses in the centre, which afford splendid masses of shadow. There are only small openings, or windows, in the side towers, but large ones in the centre tower, which connects them. At

the entrance of the latter are two seated lion-headed goddesses, with disks on their heads. Every portion of the façade of this pavilion is covered with sculpture.

On the two towers are colossal representations of Rameses III., with his falchion raised high, about to sacrifice prisoners to the gods, Amun Ra and Re. The sculpture and hieroglyphics are so deeply engraven, that the portion at the top of the high centre part may be seen and read from the base. I was too infirm to climb to where the king is represented with his harem playing drafts.

This pavilion leads through a court to vast propyla, greatly injured. Here again it is impossible not to be struck with the depth of the hieroglyphics. The back of the propyla being partly cleared, exhibits a portion of a battle scene. Rameses, in his car, is drawing his bow and overwhelming his enemies, a bearded people, who are falling dead at his feet. This second court, a hundred and ten feet by one hundred and thirty-five, was decorated on the right, or north, side, by seven Osiride columns, of which fragments only remain, and on the other side by as many columns with papyrus, or bell-shaped, capitals, the tops only of which are now visible. On the wall of the corridor formed by the Osiride columns, the king is in his chariot with an attendant, and again in his chariot conducting prisoners. The priests welcome him with salutations

and offerings of the lotus-flower, and conduct him on foot into the presence of the god, Amun Ra, behind whom are Maut and Khonso. Long lines of hieroglyphic inscriptions tell the tale of his victory. As the priest of Sais is reputed to have said to Solon: "Whatever happens among us, or in any other place that we know anything about, anything beautiful, or great, or important in any way, all is recorded in our temples, from the earliest times, and so has been preserved." *

The façade of the injured propyla, leading from this court into what deserves, from its richness, to be called the grand court, is ornamented on the south side with colossal sculpture, representing the king leading prisoners to Amun. The propyla lead into the most beautiful court in the valley of the Nile. It is not so magnificent as the great hall of Karnak, but for the remains of colouring, and its richness, and interesting sculptures, it is unequalled by any other ruin in Egypt. The corridor which surrounds it is sustained, on the east and west sides, by eight square massive pillars, which supported Osiride statues, of which fragments only remain; and, on the north and south sides, there were originally four columns, with the plain bud-shaped capital, but two were destroyed on the north side, when the court was changed into a Christian temple, the only remains of which

* "Egypt's Place in History," vol. iv., p. 464.

are the monolithic granite columns which encumber the centre of the court. Thirty years ago there were far more remains of colouring in this splendid court, but even now the azure roof of the corridor, studded with yellow stars, and the colouring on the capitals of the columns, give us some idea of the brilliant gorgeous effect of Egyptian decoration.

On the north side the sculpture represents the coronation of the king. His twelve sons bear him on his shrine, before which a pontiff bears incense, and the figures of Truth and Justice, with outstretched wings, protect him. Officers carrying flabella, which remind us of the popes in the processions in St. Peter's, and scribes, priests, fan-bearers, and soldiers bearing insignia, swell the procession, which is enlivened by a band of instrumental music and choristers. The king, alighted from his chariot, officiates before the statue of Amun Khem, which is borne on a palanquin, accompanied by officers and priests, some carrying the altar of the deity, and before the statue is the sacred bull. Below is a procession of arks, and the gods Seth and Hor Hat pouring the emblems of life and purity over the king. The king seated on the lotus flower, with the same gods on each side, is an interesting group.

Some of the divinities, thanks to the Christians covering the walls with cement, are less injured, and retain much more of their colouring than is now gene-

rally seen on the walls of the temples. Besides other sculptures representing the processions and ceremonies of the Egyptians, on the west side of one of the towers, that is, on the eastern wall, and on the south walls also of this court, are historical subjects. Rameses, in his car, is discharging his arrows at the Rebo, his defeated foes; other chariots assist him, and their allies, the Gaikkrui, make prisoners, who are reckoned by thousands, and cut off the hands of the slain, and place them in heaps of three thousand each, before the king seated in his chariot. The lands of Tamah and Tehen are mentioned as the hostile countries, and the inscription states that the king passed over a river.* Rameses, in solemn procession, presents his prisoners to the gods Amun Ra and Maut, who congratulate him on his victory. Long tablets of hieroglyphics relate the history of the war.

This interesting sculpture is much injured, but all will admire the different representations of the king, and especially the spirited manner the horses are executed, and the deep-cut hieroglyphics, as if they were engraved for eternity; but art had already begun to decay, and these sculptures are inferior in grace and beauty to the sculptures of the time of Rameses II., who ascended his throne a century earlier.

The rest of this temple was, until very recently,

* See Bunsen, 111-210.

almost entirely filled with earth and crude bricks, and we should be grateful to the government for having cleared it, if they had not thrown a great portion of the rubbish on the north side of the temple, covering parts of the most interesting sculpture in the valley of the Nile, so that the loss exceeds the gain. The hall the grand court leads into, cleared now to the stone floor, was decorated with twenty-four columns, which are standing to the height of from six to eight feet from their circular bases, all bearing the name of Rameses. Between the first and second columns of the centre avenue are pedestals, doubtless for statues of the king. The lower row of sculpture thus lately discovered, beginning on the left side, represents Horus and Thoth introducing the king to Amun Ra, and the king making offerings to Kneph and the lion-headed goddess.

On the south side the king on his knees is presenting offerings to Amun Ra, behind whom are Maut, Khonso, and Thoth, counting on a graduated staff, the panegyries of the king. Passing a door leading into side rooms, the king is represented making offerings to Amun, Maut, and Khonso. On the right side Amun Ra, seated with Khonso behind him, is giving a falchion to the king, who is making him offerings. Then the same god is represented giving the king flowers of the papyrus, emblems of the dominion of Egypt; and Horus, and I think Thoth (but

both faces and hieroglyphics are defaced) are pouring over the king a chain of the emblems of life and purity.

The sculpture on the north side of the hall is uninteresting, and broken by five entrances into chambers. Between two of these entrances the king is represented embracing Khonso. In three of these five rooms the sculpture only represents offerings to the gods. The fourth contains a fragment of a large sacred ark, and on the opposite side Thoth is seated receiving offerings of vases from the king.

In the lowest row, on the right of the fifth room, are represented four enormous fat bullocks, and above, I think the slaughtering of one, but it is much defaced. This room has a small column in the centre, and a door leading into a narrow chamber where there are gazelles and other animals depicted on the walls. On the south side of the hall are two doors. The western one leads into a room where there is a sacred ark, but unfortunately seven holes on each side this room, as if for beams, injure the sculpture. At each end of the ark is a human head, bearing the helmets of the upper and lower country, and a horned globe and serpents. In the ark is a shrine, and figures bearing a large fan, emblems of truth, and a vulture over a large papyrus. The king is making offerings before the shrine.

On the west side of this room the king is making offerings of incense and libations to the Theban triad,

and at the end of the room to Amun Ra. The eastern door leads into four rooms, three were dark, and in the fourth the king was making offerings to Kneph.

This hall leads into a room which was ornamented with eight columns, now truncated in the same manner as those of the hall; and apparently behind this chamber was another ornamented with four columns, which led into the sanctuary, but this part of the temple is not cleared out, though a fragment of a stone wall shows that there were no other rooms. On an architrave is an interesting representation of an ark, with Atmoo in a shrine; and in the ark are Thoth, Sate, and Horus, and at each end the king on his knees, with four cynocephali behind him. The colouring of the sculpture in these end rooms is remarkably fresh, and worth observing.

The sculpture of the exterior of this temple is sadly injured, as I have said, by their depositing there the rubbish taken from the interior, but it is still most interesting. At the west end of the north wall of the exterior, Rameses in his chariot, attended by fan-bearers and a lion, advances with his troops; the Rebo wait his attack; chariots and archers rush into battle, the Rebo are defeated, and heaps of tongues are among the trophies of the victory. Again, Rameses with his army, accompanied by his allies, the Shairetana, with round bucklers and spears, advances

against another Asiatic enemy, who are routed, their chariots flying at full speed, and the women and children escaping in plaustra denote they are driven from their own country. The king pursuing them through a morass, is attacked by lions; two he kills with arrows, and one he is on the point of killing with his spear, the lions and horses admirably drawn.

Below are the Egyptian troops and their allies. The enemy having taken refuge in their boats, we have now a naval engagement; one of the enemy's boats is represented upset, and the Egyptians, again victorious, are rescuing some from a watery grave. The king with his archers shoots at them from the shore, while his chariot and attendants, beautifully drawn, await his return.

The subject below this, representing prisoners and amputated hands, is now covered. Rameses then distributes rewards to his victorious troops, and conducts the captive Rebo and Tokkari to the Theban triad. Another subject, east of the second propylon, represented the king taking forts and towns, but mounds of rubbish prevent almost any part of it being distinguished, except the king in his chariot, accompanied by other chariots. About two hundred yards south of these ruins is a very small Ptolemaic temple, only important from the hieroglyphic titles of some of the Ptolemies and their queens.

CHAPTER X.

The Temple of Dayr el Bahree—Ride through the Valley of Assaseef—Tomb of a Wealthy Priest—The Great Western Mountain—Granite Pylon of Thothmes III.—Egyptian Knowledge of the Arch—The Pasha's Excavations—The Author forbidden to take a Note of Certain Sculptures—Beautiful Remains of Coloured Decorations—A Small, but Beautiful, Excavated Temple—Representations of King Thothmes and the Goddess Athor—Private Tombs of Thebes—Destruction caused by Arabs and Travellers—Interesting Tombs—Tomb 35—Its Inhabitants—Interesting Paintings on the Walls—Representations of Arts and Trades—Pictures illustrative of Brick-making—Tomb of the Time of Thothmes I.—Tombs of Egyptian Kings and Queens—Magnitude of the Tombs—Their Appearance when lighted—Destruction of the Paintings—Belzoni's Tomb, No. 14—Inclined Gallery—Extraordinary and Interesting Decorations—Sculptures representing the Mysterious Ceremonies of the Dead—The Tomb of Rameses III.—Galleries and Niches for Royal Mummies—Decorations representing Boats, Arms, and Trades of the Ancient Egyptians—Tomb of Rameses IV.

It is about twenty minutes' ride from the bank of the river, opposite the village of Koorneh, to the commencement of the excavations, and about half an hour's ride further to the Temple of Dayr el

Bahree, or the Northern Convent, having probably been appropriated to that purpose by the Christians. This half-hour's ride through the valley of the Assaseef is one of the most remarkable in Egypt. The path winds through hundreds of excavated tombs, some of great size. One of a wealthy priest, is the largest in the valley of the Nile. The area of the actual excavation of it, comprising the chambers of the pit, is computed to be 23,809 square feet, and the ground it occupies is said to be an acre and a quarter (see Handbook). Formerly I explored and measured every portion of it, but this, and the other tombs of the Assaseef, many of them formerly so interesting, are now so destroyed that they are not worth the great inconvenience of visiting them. Besides the innumerable tombs on our right and left, there were remains of pylons and ancient brick buildings, and traces of an avenue which led up to the temple, and at the extremity of the valley the Great Western Mountain, boldly and picturesquely broken, rises perfectly perpendicular and inaccessible. The granite pylon, bearing the name of Thothmes III., substituted for that of an earlier king, and his dedication of the temple to Amun, is still standing, leading to the entrance of the temple.

Near it will be observed two specimens of arches, one pointed, formed of large stones leaning against each other, the other circular in shape, formed of ap-

proaching stones, which I published in my travels in Ethiopia, as well as one of the regularly constructed brick arches, so numerous on the plain and in the tombs of Thebes, which have at last satisfied the most sceptical, that the Egyptians were acquainted, at least as early as fifteen centuries B.C., with the use and advantages of the arch. The entrance to the temple, which is excavated in the rock, is now covered with rubbish. Though I could not see the interior of this excavated temple, which, I recollect, contained little of importance, I was more than compensated by the discoveries which recent excavators have made.

A court, still uncleared, but containing fragments of polygonal columns, leads to the beautiful wall of a temple cut in the rock. About forty Arabs were clearing this temple for Signor Marietti, the Pasha's superintendent of his excavations; and the head man of the party forcibly prevented my taking a note of the exquisite sculpture which adorns that part of the temple. Signor Marietti, wishing to be the first to publish these interesting sculptures, had, probably, forbid their being drawn without the authority of the Pasha, and his Arab deputy had not the sense to know the difference between a note and a drawing.

The sculpture contained representations of sacred arks; the King Rameses II. making offerings; Horus

weighing them; plants in vases; sycamore trees; heaps of grain, Thoth taking an account of them; beautiful groups of cattle; panthers and giraffes; elegant boats with little cabins, one with fourteen rowers, and another with seven; the river well depicted, and in it a most interesting collection of all the fish of the Nile. For the remains of colour and the elegance of the style, these sculptures are almost unrivalled in the valley of the Nile. The rock on which they are executed slopes inwards, and in the court before it are fragments of fourteen square pillars.

A little further south is another small but beautiful excavated temple. The façade is richly decorated with sculpture, representing, on both sides of the entrance into the interior, King Thothmes feeding the cow Athor. A court in front of the façade is partly cleared, and contains fragments of polygonal columns, and on the rocks at the side are beautiful boats. In the first room of the interior are two polygonal columns, with square capitals, and without sculpture. On the right, on entering, Thothmes II. is making offerings to Athor, and this divinity is also represented on the other walls. On the left, on entering, the lion-headed goddess is addressing the king, wearing the head-dress of two feathers, the attributes of Amun Ra. Over a doorway, leading into a small room, are four rows, each consisting of five different

divinities, seated with plain head-dresses. The hieroglyphics are much defaced, but I recognised the names of Athor, Seb, and Neith.

This front room leads into another small one, containing on each side a beautiful representation of the cow Athor, painted red, seated in her boat, the emblems of life, purity, and stability sustaining it, and before it the king is represented making rich offerings. This room leads into an arched sanctuary. The stones are cut in the shape of an arch, but meet in the centre. On each side of this room is a representation of the cow Athor, and Thothmes kneeling between its hind legs, and, with his mouth, milking the cow. The same king is here also represented making offerings to the cow. At the end of the sanctuary Thothmes is represented between Athor and a divinity, with the head-dress of four feathers, hieroglyphics now defaced, receiving the cross, or sign of life. There are very small rooms leading out of the sanctuary, and four recesses in the room leading into it, without sculpture. One of the side rooms contains a representation of Amun Ra on his throne, and a figure of the king much defaced. Horus is seen on the left, and Athor on the right, with offerings before them.

The corresponding room on the north side is much blackened, but Amun Ra and other divinities may be distinguished. In the two little side rooms leading out of the front room the king is represented making

offerings to different divinities, but they are much injured. In no temple in Egypt is there so much of the colouring remaining. Besides the beautiful representations of the king, and the divinities, the hieroglyphics, with their various and brilliant tints, on a bluish grey ground, the azure roof with red stars, the elegant decorations, especially over the door leading into the inner rooms, representing lofty thin pilasters, with Athor-headed capitals, and the elegant proportions of the excavation itself, must excite the admiration of every lover of art.

The private tombs in and near the western mountain of Thebes were formerly rich in subjects illustrating the manners and customs of the ancient Egyptians, but the Arabs, who have made them their habitations, and travellers, have destroyed the most interesting. Except No. 35, there is scarcely one remaining worth seeing of the numerous tombs I recollect thirty years ago.* Even the poorest Arab desires the seclusion of his harem, and would scarcely think himself indemnified for his privacy being disturbed by the little presents travellers make when they visit the tombs.

A hundred, and sometimes a hundred and fifty boats with travellers visit Thebes almost every

* The literary world is immeasurably indebted to Wilkinson and others who have recorded, in their invaluable works, the most interesting pictures of these tombs.

season; and the demand for antiquities is so great, and the prices given for such as there can be no doubt about, are so high, the temptation is irresistible to the poor Arabs. The sculptures they manage to cut from the walls are almost always of little or no value, being without the hieroglyphics, and, from their defective tools, it is certain the Arabs destroy ten times more than they sell; but until travellers refuse to buy sculptures taken from the walls, the work of destruction will go on, and no tombs will be worth seeing except those recently opened, which are not yet destroyed, and have also the advantage of retaining their colouring almost as vivid as when first erected.

Egyptian sculpture can never be thoroughly understood and appreciated without seeing it with the rich and harmonious colouring which always accompanied it. It is only by a visit to the excavations, especially to those recently made, that we can understand what must have been the effect of the temples when gorgeously decorated.

Gentlemen travelling for their respective governments have sadly aided this work of destruction, and though they may have done it more judiciously, and flatter themselves they have preserved the spoils for their museums, the example they have set is a dangerous one for the Arabs, especially in the tombs of the kings, which had always been respected.

I will mention briefly a few tombs still interesting, which may be seen in one excursion. The tombs generally consist of a doorway leading into a transept, or a narrow chamber, and a much smaller chamber leading from opposite the doorway into an inner chamber; but in riding among the excavations, numerous tombs will be seen with spacious courts before them, walled round with solid brick-work.

Before arriving at the valley of the Assaseef, there is a tomb, opened four years ago, containing a representation of a garden, and females playing instruments of music, and Osiris and Anubis represented on their thrones. On the opposite side are rich offerings to Osiris on his throne ; three interesting boats and offerings of animals and various pieces of cabinet work to the gentleman and lady of the tomb. The hieroglyphics are all painted, but the style of the sculpture is not very good. A tomb excavated three years ago is situated a little beyond what is called the Greek's house (where I lived six months). Boats are represented, and an agricultural scene much injured; cattle treading out the grain, and figures reaping. A great feast is also depicted. A number of women are seated with lotus-flowers in their hands, while others are giving them drink, putting necklaces round their necks, and playing on harps and lyres for their amusement.

On the other side are offerings of beautiful gar-

lands and geese to the gentleman and his lady. At the end of the chamber is a representation of a granite shrine with inscriptions of hieroglyphics, and at the opposite end the remains of a similar shrine, now destroyed, as is also the sculpture in the little room leading out of the chamber. The decorations of the roof and walls of the first room are very beautiful, and the colouring as fresh as if executed recently.

A short distance beyond this tomb is one that has been long opened, and is now so ruined it is scarcely worth visiting. The sculptures represent men shooting with bows and arrows, and a variety of animals. Adjoining this tomb is another, sadly injured, but still containing beautiful sculpture, representing chariots, women making lamentations, and the portraits and names of Amunoph III. The narrow passage from the usual transept, or first chamber, leads to two seated figures, and another transept, in which are also two figures. Destroyed as the sculpture is, Osiris may still be seen on his throne.

No. 35 is, as the Handbook states, by far the most curious of all the private tombs in Thebes, since it throws more light on the manners and customs of the Egyptians than any hitherto discovered. On my first visit to Egypt, I worked for two months several hours a day in this tomb, drawing the grand procession in the first chamber, and a complete section, in sixteen large drawings, of the long inner chamber. It was no

slight labour; the only aperture to the large tomb was the small doorway.

In the first chamber an Arab family lived, and in the other a cow. The atmosphere, as may be conceived, was so oppressive that I could not bear it for more than two or three hours at a time. On my last visit to Thebes I found these interesting paintings so faded that I determined to publish my drawings, especially as a complete section of an Egyptian tomb has never been given. I intended to have enriched this volume with these interesting subjects, but the only artist in England who is able to draw them on stone is unfortunately too much occupied to undertake them.

To the left, on entering the tomb, is the grand procession of Ethiopians and Asiatics presenting offerings to Thothmes III., which I published in colours, in my travels in Ethiopia. In the first row some are a dark people from the south, and their offerings are of ivory, ebony, skins, animals, and ostrich eggs and feathers. In the second row are represented a light red people of Kufa, with hair dressed in ringlets, whose presents of vases rival the vases of the Greeks in form and richness. In the third row are Ethiopians bringing also ebony, ivory, skins, ostrich eggs and feathers, gold in rings, ingots, and bags, a camelopard, a leopard, apes, oxen, and dogs, very similar to one I bought in Ethiopia.

In the fourth row the Rot-n-no, clad in long white garments, are evidently from the north, with their sandy hair, beards, and long white gloves. They also present vases and ivory, an elephant, a bear, and a chariot and horses. In the lowest row are the wives of the Ethiopians and Asiatics. The accumulation of presents is the richest to be seen in the tombs of Egypt, but the colours are now faded.

The inner chamber has a singular roof, ascending towards the end. The arts and trades represented on the left side are most interesting. The making bricks will excite great interest, for though there is no proof that the men are the Israelites, yet it is remarkable that in a tomb illustrating the occupations of the Egyptians of the time of Thothmes III., in whose reign the Exodus is supposed to have taken place, a people painted yellow, quite different from the Egyptians, are thus represented. They are the only yellow or northern people in this chamber, except one making a vase. At the pond represented, surrounded with cypresses, a figure will be seen fetching water. Six figures closely adjoining are mixing the mud with hoes, carrying it away, and two men above are moulding it into bricks. Below are men carrying bricks, and the taskmasters with sticks in their hands.

There are other interesting subjects; sculptors are levelling and squaring stones, making a sphinx,

and a colossal statue of the king. The curriers making leather thongs for the sandals are well represented. A skin is hanging up to denote the trade; a man with a knife is cutting a piece of leather of a circular form into thongs, in a way that showed they understood the circular cut. Two men are twisting the thongs together, and another with his awl is preparing a sandal for the thong. Men are represented heating a liquid over a fire, kept up with bellows worked with the feet. Their knowledge of the use of glue appears from their melting it over a fire, and men spreading it and putting together different coloured woods.

Then there are carpenters and upholsterers making a hole in the seat of a chair with a drill, and polishing the legs, and long processions of men carrying boxes and cabinets of great taste. There are also men cutting up cattle, and very elegant boats.

On the right side of the chamber is represented a feast, men and women sitting apart, females giving them wine (of which, from other tombs, we learn the Egyptian ladies sometimes took too much), and music is provided for the entertainment. At the end of this side is a beautiful garden, and in the centre a pond surrounded with palms. The gentleman of the tomb is represented in a boat, towed by his servants.

A terrible climb, for an invalid, up the mountain, led me to an interesting tomb, bearing the name of

Thothmes I., discovered five years ago. In the transept, which is almost entirely destroyed, are the gentleman and lady of the tomb, negroes carrying their children in baskets, and various rich offerings: vases, animals, ivory, ebony, plants, ingots of silver, and scribes taking an account of them. On the opposite wall are represented dom and palm-trees, and a lake with a house, built of square masses of stone, with eight windows visible, almost all of modern shape. On the other is a variety of cattle, and the roof is beautifully decorated with hieroglyphic inscriptions. The inner chamber is almost destroyed, but several boats may be distinguished.

The tombs of the queens are now, they say, not worth visiting, but there are more private tombs worth seeing than those I have mentioned. As they are almost all dirty, being generally occupied by Arab families, a few will satisfy travellers, who should, however, take care to visit those recently opened.

The tombs of the kings—Bab el Molook, the Gate of the Kings—are about an hour's ride from the bank opposite Koorneh, through a wild, and, in some parts, picturesque valley. About a dozen candles should be taken, more being requisite than in the private tombs. I lighted them up once with fifty, and the effect was very fine; but so many lights, and the number of people required to carry them, increase the heat, which, though it did not annoy me then, or prevent my

drawing there for hours on my first visit to the Nile, when I was well, affected me so much during my last visit, that I was quite unable to visit many I should have liked to see again. Invalids who intend to examine them minutely, should take their wine-flask in their pockets, but even the most delicate should not allow themselves to be deterred by the certainly unpromising-looking entrances of some of them. The tombs of the kings are the marvel of the Nile; our astonishment, and almost incredulity, at such mountains of masonry as the great Pyramids of Geezeh being erected for the sepulchre of one little mortal man, though that mortal was a Pharaoh, is diminished when we see, at Thebes, a private tomb so large and so richly decorated as No. 35, a priest's, in the Assaseef, as I have stated, occupying nearly an acre and a quarter, and the great extent, above three hundred and fifty feet, of some of these sepulchres. More than seventeen known to the Ptolemies are now open, but few are really worth seeing.*

* "An Egyptian king was," says Rosellini,* "the type of the Sun in Heaven; Sun, or Phré, was the principal and ordinary title of every king, and the celebrated one of Pharaoh meant, literally, Phré, or Sun. From the symbolical resemblance, the life of an Egyptian king was compared to the course of the Sun in the higher hemisphere, and the setting Sun passing through the stations of the lower worlds was the type of a deceased king. One of the most essential points of the doctrine of Egyptian psychology consists precisely in the passage of the Sun through the stations where the souls separated from

* "I monumenti dell Egitto e della Nubia—monumenti del Culto," p. 351.

Belzoni's tomb is still the most beautiful and best preserved, but, unfortunately, greatly injured since my first visit. One of the most splendid pictures in it was totally destroyed by a shameful injudicious attempt to transfer it to a royal museum; other paintings are defaced by taking paper impressions of them, and the mania of writing names on the walls destroys the beautiful uncoloured outlines in one of the chambers. I can easily suppose such travellers would write their names on the frescoes of Raphael in the Vatican, if there were no custodi to prevent them. With the thoughtlessness of a young traveller, I confess, on my first visit to the Nile, I wrote my name on one of the

their bodies were wandering; there it beams upon the souls of the good, and speaks kindly to them, while it repudiates those of the wicked, refusing them the comfort of its light. Hence this vast and complicated doctrine is found ornamenting the walls of the royal sepulchres. There are represented the stations of the god, and his passages in the Bari, or sacred boats, of the twelve hours of the day and the twelve hours of the night, with the accompanying deities, analogous to those in the portico of the temple of Edfoo. There are seen under various forms, the souls making their passages through the same stations, the genii of those stations who guard the gates, the deities who have them in charge, and many other things relating to the legends of the Egyptian mythology, among which may chiefly be distinguished the perpetual war of Phré and his companions against the gigantic serpent, Aphophis, the symbol of discord, of confusion, of disorder, of eternal chaos, and of indivisible time. It is, in substance, the mythical story of Phré as the source of light, as the president of the celestial regions, as the director and divider of time, as the rewarder of the good, and punisher of the wicked, which is represented as resembling the life of the terrestrial Sun of the Pharaoh who had governed the two regions of Egypt as Phré rules over the two regions of Heaven. Such is generally the symbolism of the tombs in Bab el Molook."

colossal statues in the interior of Aboo Simbel, and was greatly annoyed at what I had done when, elsewhere, and especially in this tomb, by the light of my illumination, I saw the destructive effect of an accumulation of such offences, and was really relieved to find on my last visit to the temple that time and decay had completely effaced my only offence of that description. Those who really care for art, and do not wish to have a similar crime on their consciences, would do well to record their visit to the Nile on the rock at the second cataract, on the top of the Pyramids, or on such places where it may be done with impunity.

The entrance to Belzoni's tomb, No. 17, is rough, and has, apparently, never been ornamented. We descended twenty-seven steep steps into an inclined gallery, covered with beautiful tablets of hieroglyphics relating to King Osirei, or Sethi I., the occupant of the tomb; and then descended another staircase of twenty-five steps, on each side of which are forty-two representations of Assessors, the Lords of Truth, before whom the soul of the deceased justifies his life, to a gallery and small chamber, in which is a pit, which was supposed to be the end of the tomb. The colouring of the roof and walls is very beautiful. Among the sculptures may be seen the goddess of Truth with outstretched wings, men drawing the boats of Kneph, and strange representations of ser-

pents, with wings, and legs of men, and offerings to Isis, Osiris, and other divinities. Belzoni, observing that the wall behind the well gave a hollow sound, with a palm-tree for a ram, broke into a splendid hall twenty-six feet square, with four square pillars, richly decorated. The sculptures are most beautiful, and some of the subjects very extraordinary: boats of Kneph; twelve men holding an enormous serpent, and between each man is a human head resting on the serpent; and opposite is another group of nine men with an enormous serpent; in the corner near it is a most interesting procession, representing the four different people of the world known to the Egyptians. The four red figures are the Egyptians themselves; the next four are a white people, with blue eyes, beard, and bushy hair bound with braid; their dresses short, like those of the Egyptians, but striped red, blue, and white—these are supposed to represent people of the North; four negroes, admirably depicted, represent the South; and the other four white people, with blue eyes, and beards, and gay, long, flowing robes, the East-Asiatics. It is deeply to be deplored that these figures are now almost entirely deprived of their colouring by travellers taking paper impressions of them; and that another subject, the most gorgeous in this room, has been destroyed by a distinguished traveller. These four nations are represented in other tombs, with variations.

Four steps lead from this hall into another, thirty feet by twenty-seven feet, in the centre of which are two square columns. This hall has never been coloured, and shows us how the Egyptians made their drawings in a bold and masterly style with red lines, which were corrected in black. These spirited drawings, especially those on the columns, must excite the admiration of every draughtsman. The sculptures represent sacred arks and figures, with serpents on their heads.

Returning to the first hall, seventeen steps lead from it into an inclined gallery, eighteen paces long, at the entrance of which was a fine group, taken away by another collector for a royal museum, where the colours soon lost all their brilliancy. Descending three steps, we then passed through a gallery ten paces long, into a small room which leads into the grand hall, much injured, sustained by six square pillars. The sculptures, especially at the end, where they are less injured, are very beautiful, representing different divinities, mummies, and mysterious ceremonies of the dead; the descent of the deceased to Amenti, his purification by fire and sacrifice, and reception by Osiris, assisted by other divinities. The ground colour of the wall is yellow, which gives it a very rich appearance. On the right of this grand hall is a small room, in which is a representation of a yellow cow, with black horns, and attendants. This grand hall

leads into another chamber, sustained by two square pillars, ornamented with beautiful sculpture, and round this chamber is a raised bench. The sculptures relating to the ceremonies of the dead are very curious. A variety of animals are seen, a crocodile on an island, serpents vomiting fire, and human sacrifices.

The grand hall leads into another large and unfinished chamber, and under the vaulted part of this hall stood the alabaster sarcophagus, at the end of an inclined gallery, which, when Belzoni opened the tomb, is said to have extended three hundred feet further. The Handbook states the total length of the sepulchre to where the sarcophagus stood to be three hundred and twenty feet, and its perpendicular depth ninety feet.

No. 11, the tomb of Rameses III., or Bruce's tomb, is very interesting. A gallery, about forty yards long, leads into a small room covered with finely drawn figures, but much injured. Twenty-six yards further on is an inclined gallery, fifty yards long, which passes through a room with two square pillars on each side, into a chamber seventeen yards long, at the end of which is another gallery, twenty yards long, at the sides of which are horizontal niches probably for the mummies of the royal family. The most attractive sculptures in this tomb are in the small rooms leading out of the first gallery. The

first one contains six beautiful boats, richly decorated, some with their chequered yards set, and cabins in the centre. The next room contains a beautiful collection of arms and armour, as elegant in their form as the weapons now to be seen in the museum at Cairo, and in other royal collections. Some of the blades being painted blue, is strong evidence that the Egyptians were acquainted with the use of iron, though the corroding soil may have prevented the discovery of any, but, like the Christians and Romans, who certainly had iron, which is supposed to have been known long before the Trojan War, they probably made far greater use of bronze.

The next room contains furniture; and no one can see the chairs here depicted, as elegant and splendid as are to be seen in any modern palace, without admitting the high civilization and luxury of the Egyptians. They initiate us at once into the private life of the monarchs. It is but reasonable to suppose that the chambers containing such chairs, to say nothing of the elegant couches, vases, &c., must have been in every other respect tastefully and magnificently furnished. The lions at their sides remind us of the description of Solomon's throne.

In the next room is a man ploughing on the banks of the river, and two others reaping, and various plants and trees, seemingly the cypress. In the next room are different representations of Osiris. On the first

room on the left, on entering, we have the duties of the kitchen portrayed; the slaughtering the oxen, and putting the joints in caldrons, drawing off the soup with syphons, pounding the meat, and making bread, and carrying it to the oven. The second and fourth room contain sacred emblems. The third a variety of birds, and fruits, and plants; and in the last are two harpers, playing on elegant and rich harps, before the god Moui, or Hercules. The other sculptures in this tomb relate, as in No. 17, to the mysteries of the dead.

No. 2, or the tomb of Rameses IV., where, on my first visit to Egypt, I resided a week, though small, is well worth seeing for the architecture. About eighty paces, a little inclined, lead, through four rooms, to the fine granite sarcophagus which is seen from the entrance. Among the sculptures are represented prisoners and boats of Kneph; and large tablets of hieroglyphics, not particularly well executed.

Of the other tombs, No. 9 and 14 are best worth seeing. No. 9 is the tomb of Rameses V., and is very beautiful. The decorations are not so rich, but the plan is more elegant than that of the tomb discovered by Belzoni. No. 14, the tomb of Osirei II., contains a curious sarcophagus. Both of these tombs are about one hundred and twenty yards long.

CHAPTER XI.

The Gay Season at Thebes—The Price of a Mummy—Sale of Scarabæi—Manufacture of False Ones—The Obelisk at Luxor—Battle Scenes represented on the Eastern and Western Towers—Splendid Avenue formed by Fourteen Immense Columns—Advantage of Painting and Sculpture in Combination with Egyptian Architecture—The most Elegant Egyptian Columns—Ruins of the Temple of Karnak—Imposing Avenue of Sphinxes—The Pylon of Ptolemy Euergetes—Beautiful Small Temple—Panorama of Unequalled Grandeur—Great Temple of Karnak—Immense Pyramidal Towers at the Entrance—Avenue of Magnificent Columns—Remarkable Sculptures of Egyptian Divinities and Religious Ceremonies—Ruins of the Great Hall of Karnak—Representation of Egyptian Deities on the Columns—Decorations of the Great Hall—A Sculptured Granite Gateway—Granite Sanctuary and Obelisks—Spirited Representation of Battle Scenes—Destruction of Sculptures—Colossal Portrait of Shishak—Ptolemy Lathyrus the Destroyer of the Temples of the Pharaohs—Representations of the Goddess Pasht.

TRAVELLERS should visit the antiquities on the western bank before the palace-temple of Luxor, and the far more imposing ruins of Karnak; but the attractions of the bazaar of a market town, the want of fresh provisions, the mooring at this port of modern

and ancient Thebes being better than at Koorneh, the Consul residing there, and his house being the post-office, and the very natural wish for a little society after the long voyage of from fifteen to twenty days from Cairo, generally induce them, not a little influenced by their dragomen, to sail to Luxor first. During the season, and especially during the months of January and February, the bank is quite gay. I counted two steamers, and thirteen dahabeeahs of travellers there at one time, each with their pennants and flags, often of two or three nations, with their sandals, or little boats, similarly decorated, sailing about.

The temple is imposing, and in and around the ruins are the Consuls' houses, with flags flying; and the village is alive to make the most of the season. The market is well supplied with mutton and poultry, and even the unusual luxury, on the Nile, of tolerable butter may be procured. All kinds of animals are on sale. One man had a young but rather fierce lion. But the traffic in antiquities is the most profitable for the gamin and dealers of Thebes, as they sell now at immense prices what cost them little or nothing. Fifty pounds was given for a mummy, and twenty for its companion, this winter, which, by a little bargaining, might have been purchased for ten pounds, and, on my first visit to the Nile, for as many shillings; indeed, the only one I ever found a

papyrus in cost me only two shillings and sixpence. Scarabæi fetch now fabulous prices. Being the first boat, I bought about fifty, but the prices were high, and rose enormously as other boats arrived ; ten shillings and twenty shillings, for a scarabæus, was, as the season advanced, the usual price for very common ones; and I paid one pound for a fine ivory one, with a royal bride's name, a friend of mine paying two pounds for one not nearly so good. When such prices are given it is not surprising that a manufacture of them has sprung up. It is really wonderful how well they copy the hieroglyphics of the royal names from the temples, and it is only from the green colouring being too dull, or too vivid, and from the mistakes in the hieroglyphics, when they attempt large ones, that they can be detected. Papyri are made up, sealed with royal names, and boats, containing figures not the least Egyptian, of highly-glazed pottery, fetch one pound a piece from innocent travellers. The Consuls, being more on the spot, manage to obtain the best scarabæi, get them tastefully, but not accurately, set in Paris, and sell a necklace, brooch, and bracelets for three hundred pounds, which have probably not cost them a tenth of the sum.

One of the two beautiful red granite obelisks which adorned the entrance of the temple of Luxor is still standing, the other is in the Place de la Concorde, Paris. The Egyptians always erected obelisks in pairs, and

their effect, when isolated, is greatly diminished. This obelisk is covered with admirably engraved hieroglyphics, of an immense depth, but they appear too crowded. The mixture of figures and hieroglyphics, as will be seen on the obelisks at Karnak, has a much better effect. The heads and shoulders of the colossal statues of the King Rameses II., which ornamented the entrance, are sadly injured. The grand propyla were decorated with interesting sculpture. On the western tower, defaced as it is, a camp may still be traced, formed of shields, and filled with spoils. The king, Rameses II., in his chariot, appears to be sallying out of the camp, or defending it; above the battle rages fiercely, chariot meeting chariot; and on the east of the camp is a colossal representation of the king, seated on his throne, receiving the submission of his enemies. On the east tower a fierce battle is depicted, and a spirited representation of the king, in his chariot, drawing his bow, and overthrowing his enemies. A little distance behind him are six chariots, in line, one above another, showing the regularity with which they went to battle. The effect of the charge on the chariots of the enemy, is most spiritedly depicted: horses rearing with fright, warriors falling out of the chariots, and many of the latter overthrown. There appears to be a fortified island, and chariots and foot soldiers are attacking it. The enemy in their fort are armed with bows.

This fine pylon leads into a court now filled with a portion of the town of Luxor.

Passing the mosk, and winding through a narrow street, two capitals of the bud-shape will be seen. This street leads to a great hall which was never finished. Fourteen immense columns, bearing the names of the kings Horus and Sethi, with papyrus or bell-shaped capitals, still retaining traces of colour, which formed a grand avenue, are standing and supporting their architraves. Ruined even as they partly are, they appear to be the work of giants, compared to the wretched huts of the Arabs around them. This splendid avenue led into a grand court. Twenty-two columns, with the lotus-bud capitals, which formed a corridor on the east side, are still standing, and almost as many on the west. The absence of figures and hieroglyphics on these columns, which have never been finished, shows us how much the effect of Egyptian architecture was increased by the accessories of painting and sculpture, and, indeed, from its colossal proportions, required such advantages. This court led into a hall decorated with similar columns, but a portion of this hall was changed by the Christians into a Court of Justice. The niche where the judge sat, with a monolithic granite column on each side with barbarous capitals, may still be seen. The Court of Justice was richly decorated with frescoes on plaster, which has now

almost pealed off, revealing the Egyptian sculpture beneath. Traces of tasteful ornaments remain, and there are fragments of horses and men. One fine figure, in a toga, on the right of the niche, reminding me, in its style, of the mosaic in the church of Saint Cosmo and Damian, in Rome. Adjoining it is the god Amun Ra and King Amunoph III. on his knees, good specimens of Egyptian sculpture; but elegant as the latter is, it must be confessed that it is surpassed by the Roman.

To see the rest of the temple the key must be asked for at the French Consul's house, which is built over it.

There is one chamber containing four, and two rooms containing three, of the exquisite columns formed, as it were, of trees, or stalks, bound together beneath the bud-shaped capital. As these columns are excavated to their bases, which were circular, except on the sides forming the avenue, nowhere can this, the most elegant of Egyptian columns, be studied to greater advantage; and, even without the addition of sculpture and colour, they must excite the admiration of all who care for architecture. These rooms having been filled for ages with a nitrous soil, the sculpture is almost defaced, but Amunoph III. making offerings to the Theban triad, and processions of the sacred arks, may be distinguished on the walls. In one room is a curious representation of the accouche-

ment of the mother of Amunoph, and presentation of the child to the god Amun Ra. These rooms lead to an isolated sanctuary, built and decorated by Alexander, son of Alexander the Great, behind which is a corridor containing twelve of the same beautiful columns, still perfect; and another room, without a roof, containing portions of four columns. A very little beyond the temple are the Roman remains of a quay.

A quarter of an hour's ride, leaving Luxor on our right, and deviating a little from the usual path on account of the doorah fields, brought us to the large mounds of a powder manufactory. On their summit the immense ruins of Karnak burst upon us: pylons, columns, obelisks, and temples mingling beautifully with palm-trees. Two minutes' longer ride brought us to the imposing avenue of criosphinxes, which anciently formed the grand street between Luxor and Karnak. Above a hundred of these headless sphinxes are remaining, one only with a loose ram's-head to show what they have been. Several of them have the remains of the king's statue between their feet. The pylon of Ptolemy Euergetes they lead to, covered with rich sculpture, representing offerings to the different divinities, is most beautiful. The admirably sculptured winged globe retains much of its colour, the azure wings tipped with red.

This exquisite pylon leads through an avenue of

sphinxes to a small temple commenced by Thothmes III., and finished by later kings, the first court of which was decorated with twenty-eight columns, with bud-shaped capitals, forming, in double file, a corridor all round, except the side of the entrance. The court being now cleared to the bases of the columns, its beautiful proportions may be fully appreciated. The roof is remaining over the corridors, with its cornice decorated with ovals. This temple having been buried, until recently, in nitrous earth, the sculpture is much injured. King Amunoph is represented making offerings to the Theban triad—Amun Ra, with the long feathers; the mummy-shaped divinity, Khonso, with the sphere and short horns; and sometimes the goddess Maut.

This court leads into another, decorated with eight columns, excavated to their bases. The four columns forming the centre avenue have the papyrus, or bell-shaped, and the others the bud-shaped capitals. Near the door is a large fragment of a mutilated statue with a hawk's head. The roof of this court is partly remaining, and we have here an Egyptian window consisting of a large slab resting on the cornice of the roof, with twelve vertical openings. The sculpture is much defaced. The rest of the temple, which consisted of several rooms surrounding a sanctury, is not cleared out.

It is about two minutes' ride from these ruins to

the avenue of criosphinxes, leading to the immense pyramidal towers forming the western entrance of the great temple of Karnak. The traveller will not forget this short ride. The vast extent of ruins before him will make an impression which time will not easily erase. The temple he is leaving, the pylons, ruined, but still imposing, with statues of kings leading to the southern entrance of the great temple; the vast ruins of this palace-temple, extending above a mile; pylons, obelisks, and columns, in picturesque confusion; the graceful palms mingled with the edifices; and, in the distance, groves of these beautiful trees, and the river, and the Great Western Mountain, form a panorama which is unequalled in any other ancient city.

The avenue leading to the great entrance of the principal temple has been partly cleared. Many of the criosphinxes which formed it want only their heads. I observed two square pedestals with hieroglyphics, containing the names of King Osirei. I thought they must have been for statues of the king, but I observed on the ground the top of an obelisk in sandstone, which, from its size, must have been on one of them. The immense pyramidal towers of this grand entrance were never finished; one I measured, some distance from its base, was one hundred and sixty-eight feet long. On my first visit to Egypt I lived a fortnight in a chamber near the summit, cut

through the solid masonry to support flag-staffs which adorned these entrances. The view is very imposing of the first court. Many of the columns with bud-shaped capitals, which form corridors on each side, remain, though much injured; but of the centre avenue, of twelve magnificent columns, with the papyrus, or bell-shaped capitals, only one is perfect, bearing the names of Psammitichus II. and Tirhaka. The view is very fine of these broken columns, of the immense masses of ruined masonry on each side, barely one stone in its place on another; of the decorations of the entrance, and the perspective view of the grand hall, and the gateways and obelisks beyond.

The temple on the right on entering this great court, and also the rooms on the other side, are now filled with rubbish. In the south-east corner of the court is a fragment of a gateway, on which the king is represented sacrificing prisoners to Amun. Before the entrance of the great hall is a fragment of a fine granite statue of the king. The Ptolemaic sculpture which adorns the entrance, though ungraceful in style, retains much of its colour.

There is a sacred boat of Kneph, or rather of Amun Ra with the attributes of Kneph, on each side of the buttresses of the entrance. The ram's heads with necklaces, and the head-dress of the globe and serpents, are very splendid. In the centre of the boat is the ram-headed divinity seated on a lotus-flower, with

the cross of life in his hand. The king is behind making offerings, and there are two representations of the goddess of Truth and Justice, with outstretched wings, on one of which is a feather.

The same subject is repeated below with slight changes, and beneath are the spirits with hawks' heads and outstretched arms. The boat on the opposite side has jackals' heads; behind the shrine is the king under his parasol, and Horus near the oar; and in front of the shrine is the king making offerings, and other figures much defaced. Below these boats are others still uncleared out.

No ruins in the world can equal the great hall of Karnak, measuring one hundred and seventy feet by three hundred and twenty-nine feet.* The splendid centre avenue consists of twelve prodigious columns, sixty-two feet high, and about thirty-five feet in circumference, with papyrus or bell-shaped capitals, of which some of the colouring—blue, yellow, and a little red—may still be traced. And on each side of these is a forest of sixty columns, forty-two feet five inches in height, and twenty-eight feet in circumference. Beyond the centre avenue are seen obelisks, gateways, and masses of masonry; and every portion of these gigantic ruins is covered with sculpture most admirably executed.

Those who cannot reconcile themselves to the con-

* See Handbook.

ventional style of the sculpture of the figures, must at least allow the merit of the animals, the large hawks and cows, and indeed the beautiful engraving of all the hieroglyphics. You see at once that this great temple is dedicated to Amun Ra; for King Sethi making offerings to that god, with the head-dress of two long feathers, strikes the eye in the same position on every column of the centre avenue, sometimes a mummy-shaped, and sometimes a human figure, followed by the goddess Maut, wearing the mitre head-dress, or as Isis, with the globe and horns.

Besides the divinities I have mentioned, Khonso, the third divinity of the Theban triad, will be seen, mummy-shaped, with a head-dress of a globe and short horns; and in his hands the usual sceptre of the gods, with his peculiar one, the emblem of stability. I saw also on the columns a beautiful representation of Seb, accompanied by Athor, retaining much of their colour; and there is a fine group of the king offering a sphinx to Horus.

Owing to injudicious excavations lately made, many of the columns have unfortunately fallen. Besides the graceful sculpture on the columns, the walls of the great hall are covered with fine specimens of Egyptian art. The western wall is especially deserving of attention. The subjects are the king making offerings to the different divinities, chiefly the Theban triad; and there is an injured representation of an

ark, with a shrine, which the Egyptians probably carried with them to battle.

A more enjoyable walk on a hot day cannot be desired than in the shade of these hundred and thirty-two massive columns; they are as to art what forests of lofty pines are in nature. There is one particularly picturesque view of an aisle of columns, with a cornice remaining on an architrave; and above the cornice a slab, or Egyptian window, with vertical openings, showing that there were apartments above, doubtless of the palace of the Pharaohs. In your rambles through these aisles, you are continually delighted with discoveries of vivid remains of colour, especially the subjects under the architraves, representing the names and titles of the king; and you feel how gorgeous, how magnificent, this hall must have been before time, more injurious here than the Persians and the revengeful Ptolemy, destroyed its splendour.

Leaving the great hall, and passing what was its eastern front, of which only a portion remains, covered with hieroglyphics, the straight but rough path leads to an obelisk bearing in the centre line the names of Thothmes I. and of Rameses II., in the side lines. You then enter a gallery, in which is another most beautiful obelisk, bearing the name of Amun-nou-het, the great queen of Thothmes III. This gallery leads into a court which was decorated with Osiride columns; those on the south side, opposite

some fragments of columns, are the most perfect. Going straight forward, you reach a granite gateway, ornamented with a figure of King Thothmes.

On each side are five rows of prisoners, represented by ovals containing the names of conquered countries, above which are the bearded heads and busts representing the people with arms tied behind them, to indicate that they were captives. The rows on the south side contain each twenty-three of these ovals, and those on the north side fifteen. As these have been recently cleared, I regretted being too unwell to copy them.

There are chambers on each side of this court, where fragments of columns will be seen, and on one of the walls a tablet containing in numbers a list of offerings, but much injured. A small corridor, in which there is a beautiful head of Amun, with the blue colouring very perfect, leads to the granite sanctuary, before which are two injured granite obelisks, two sides of which are decorated with beautiful representations of the lotus-flower; and on the others King Thothmes is seen embraced by Amun and Maut.

The sanctuary consists of two small rooms, and was no doubt in proportion to the original temple. The name of Thothmes III. on one of the slabs of granite shows that it was originally rebuilt of granite by that king, and after its destruction by the Persians, as the Handbook supposes, reconstructed by Philip Aridæus,

for whom Ptolemy was governing Egypt. The sculpture inside the sanctuary is small, and, as will be observed, less deep than the more ancient styles; the colouring is now pea-green.

A circuit over ruins must be made to see the inner court of the sanctuary, where there is a doorway of black basalt. Around and near the sanctuary are numerous small chambers, one containing an important tablet of the stranger kings. Behind the sanctuary, on polygonal columns, was found the name of King Oristasen, of the eleventh dynasty, who reigned, according to Wilkinson, about two thousand years before our era. This discovery was of great importance, as the earliest names found on this, or any of the temples or tombs of Thebes, are of a date at least five hundred years later, when Thebes had succeeded to Memphis as the capital of Egypt, and the eighteenth Theban dynasty adorned their metropolis with magnificent edifices.

Two minutes' further scramble east leads to an interesting corridor erected by Thothmes III., which, though not cleared out, is very perfect, and ornamented with columns, with capitals of the papyrus bud-shaped, stupidly reversed, showing us that Egyptian like other architects sometimes made mistakes. The remains of colouring in this corridor on the columns and hieroglyphics, show us how beautiful it must have been when fresh. The view from this cor-

ridor, looking back on the vast pile of ruins, is very imposing. There are no dirty Arab villages to destroy the effect of these magnificent remains. You see nothing but obelisks, columns, stones, and granite, and, in the distance, palms, and the Western mountain. The corridor leads to other rooms, in which there are now four graceful columns, with the bud-shaped capitals, and on one side seven polygonal columns, with simple plain slabs for capitals, and on the other side three similar columns. They bear the name of Thothmes III., and lead to a chamber where Alexander is represented making offerings to the god Amun Ra.

The rest of the temple is uncleared, but it is worth while scrambling over chambers where there are fragments of Osiride columns, and some polygonal columns and others with the bud-shaped capital, to a corridor partly cleared, where there are two Osiride columns. The view from the mound looking down on this court is very fine, of the obelisks and ruins of the great temple, the sacred lake, the three ruined propyla to the south, mingled with palm-groves which extend some distance to the north; and behind them the great Western mountain.

There is nothing to be seen beyond this court but an unfinished pylon. In clearing out these great ruins, and making a road to them sufficiently wide for a carriage, they have not only diminished greatly

their picturesque appearance, but they have also caused the destruction of several of the columns in the great hall; and what is of far more importance, they have covered with the rubbish that they have taken from the interior, a very great portion of the most interesting historical sculptures in the valley of the Nile.*

I will mention their present state, beginning at the western extremity of the exterior of the north side of the great hall. In the upper row parts of the chariot and spiritedly drawn horses of the king Osirei or Sethi I. storming a fort on an eminence, are still to be seen. The

* According to Bunsen (iii., 157), these sculptures represent the triumph of King Sethi over five different nations—the Lutennu, or Retennu, supposed to be the Ludim of Scripture, of which race the Remnu are mentioned as a portion. 2. The Shashu, shepherd races in Canaan, and their rock fortress, has inscribed over it "Fortress of the Land of Kanana." 3. Over the Atsh shepherds, also. 4. Over the Tahu, in the land of the Retennu. 5. Triumph over the Khet, Kheta, a people without beards, wearing a close-fitting cap, and sometimes a feather, and armed with bows and arrows, and long square shields—doubtful whether Hittites, a people of Canaan, or inhabitants of Cyprus. The praises the great conqueror receives elevate him above all the kings of Egypt. The inscription has been thus translated:—"The most distinguished priests of the Gods, the presidents of the upper and lower country, come to do homage to the good God on his return from the foreign land of the Retennu, after he has conquered and reduced to slavery many great men. *None has been like him except Osiris.*" When adoring his majesty, and extolling the increase of his power, they say—"Thou hast gone forth to subjugate foreign lands, and hast trodden the world under foot with the voice of thy truth; thine enemies thou hast defeated on the first day of thy reign, like Ra, in heaven; thou hast purified the hearts of all barbarians; Ra gave thee these frontiers before thee; thy battle-axe was over the thrones of all foreign lands, their priests were pierced by the sword."—B., iii., 159.

fort is partly destroyed, but its bushy-haired and bearded warriors, with aquiline noses, are vanquished by the showers of arrows of their powerful adversary. Below this subject the king, with his falchion raised, is overthrowing the hosts of the Rot-n-no: wonderful spirit is exhibited in this group; behind it, though partly obscured by the rubbish, is the king on foot, spearing one of his foes—also admirably drawn. Of the great battle beneath only two small chariots and some heads are visible.

Further east, between two mounds of recently deposited rubbish, the king is presenting a string of prisoners to the Theban triad—Amun Ra, Maut, and Khonso, whose head-dress and hieroglyphics are alone undestroyed and uncovered by the rubbish. Passing the entrance into the temple, there is a grand representation of the king sacrificing before Amun Ra a number of prisoners whose names are in ovals. As one line begins with the names of the people of the South, and another that of the North, we see how extensive were his conquests. Rubbish and wilful destruction have sadly injured the other sculptures. In the upper row little remains of the king in his chariot, and the string of prisoners he is presenting to the Theban triad is much injured; but the divinities, except their faces, have suffered less, and also the king on foot before them. The same subject is repeated below. The king in his chariot is more perfectly pre-

served. The prisoners, with their arms tied above their elbows, and others, male and female, entreating mercy, or singing pæans congratulating the hero, are very interesting.

The next, and last, subjects are much injured. Little remains of the king, in his chariot, attacking, on an island near a river, a fort with turrets. The Handbook also says the name of the town is Kanana, and the early date of the first year of the king's reign leaves little room to doubt that the defeat of the Canaanites is here represented. The enemy had horsemen, for we see one man with a spear in his hand galloping away, and another horse is depicted without its rider. In the group below the portrait of the king, in his chariot, is well preserved and very interesting, as it is, no doubt, a likeness of King Sethi. He is drawing his bow, slaughtering his enemies, and taking their strong places. The horses of the chariots are sadly injured, but a portion of the heads remaining show how spiritedly they have been executed. Then follows the king, in repose, in his chariot, terribly defaced ; but there are three interesting representations of the fortified places he has taken.

There is also some very interesting sculpture on the south side of this great temple. On the south-west corner of the exterior of the great hall, close to the side entrance of the first court of the temple, is a colossal portrait of Sheshonk (Shishak of the

Bible), with the head-dress of two feathers—of Amun Ra—with a falchion in his right hand, and the cords of seven lines of prisoners in his left; other prisoners are on their knees begging for mercy. The strings of prisoners are represented by, as usual, their arms bound together, and heads and busts in ovals containing their names. In the third, or I may say the first uninjured one, in the third row, behind the king, is that of Judah Melchi, kingdom of Judah, quite clear and uninjured.*

On the south side of the great hall, beginning at the western extremity, spirited battle-pieces are depicted. King Rameses II. is seen with his shield before him storming a fort, making prisoners, and on foot, and in his chariot drawing his bow. Passing the entrance of the great hall, he is attacking forts in his chariot, and there is a very long inscription in hieroglyphics commemorating his victory.

There are other ruins on the north side of the great temple, which are now so destroyed that they are scarcely worth the fatigue of visiting them. The

* There are other names of Syrian people. "Land of Mahan Ma compared by Rosellini with the Mahanaim of Jacob (Gen. xxxii—*i.e.* double camp), an ancient city on the northern frontier of the tribe of Gad, to the north of the Jabbok. Land of Baitahuarun, clearly the Beth-horon of Scripture, a city in the tribe of Ephraim, the lower one of the two of that name. Solomon fortified Beth-horon (2 Chron. viii. 5), in the vicinity of an important defile. Land of Maktau, the Megiddo of Scripture, a strong city of Manasseh, on the borders of Issachar, on the Kishon, celebrated for the decisive battle, in which Josiah was defeated by Necho, and mortally wounded."—Bunsen, vol. iii., 142.

destruction of the ruins is however as marvellous as their creation; they appear built for eternity, but pylons, obelisks, and solid temples are levelled to the ground. Between the obelisks and northern pylon is a fragment of a gateway, richly sculptured, the west side by the Ptolemies, and there is a long tablet of hieroglyphics. On the right side is a beautiful fragment, worth observing for the freshness of its colouring. One oval contains no hieroglyphics, and the others are defaced; but the sculpture is of the best period, probably of Thothmes, and represents the king making offerings to Amun Ra and Maut, behind whom are Pthah and Athor.

A few yards east are other rooms. The sculpture is very fresh, but unfortunately not all cleared. The name of Thothmes III. is on the architrave, and Ptolemy Euergetes II. is making offerings of a sphinx to Pthah and Athor; further east, in an almost direct line with the southern pylons, are other ruins. At one gateway I copied the name of King Amyrtæus, of the twenty-eighth dynasty. There are remains of rooms, and of the enclosing walls of the temple, and fragments of columns, some of the best period, extend to the beautiful northern pylon, bearing the name of Ptolemy Philopator.

On the south side of the pylon are the large granite bases of two obelisks, fragments of which are scattered about, and on the north side are the remains of

an avenue of sphinxes. As the Handbook remarks, this pylon would never have been erected by the Ptolemies "to adorn a mass of ruins," if the temples it had led to had been destroyed by the Persians. The beautiful pylon I have mentioned, on the south of the great temple, and the granite sanctuary, and other ruins being respected, are certainly strong evidence that it is to Ptolemy Lathyrus—exasperated by a three years' siege—that we must attribute the extraordinary destruction of so many of the temples of the Pharaohs. There is no reason to believe that the Persian dynasty was so very hostile to the religion of Egypt. In my "Visit to the great Oasis," I have given drawings of a large temple built there by Darius.

There are other ruins to the south of the great temple. The road they have made between the great temple and the first of the southern propyla, as I have said, almost wide enough for a carriage, passes several small rooms of little importance, but bearing the name of Thothmes III.

Passing the remains of the southern propyla, still ornamented with fragments of statues of kings of the eighteenth dynasty, and an avenue of criosphinxes, now sadly injured, we came to the entrance of a temple bearing the name of a Ptolemy. In the adjoining court have been lately excavated some very fine

Androo sphinxes, one remarkably fine, bearing the name of Rameses II., which I saw quite fresh, was shamefully injured during the three months I was up the river, so rapidly does the work of destruction go on at Thebes. This led to another gateway, much ruined, but with a very perfect representation of Typhon on each side, with a head-dress of five leaves of the palm-tree, and a lion's skin on his breast, the head forming a brooch, and the two paws extending below. This leads into a singular court, in which I counted about twenty sitting representations in basalt of the goddess Pasht, with the lion-shaped head and disk, the latter all broken except one or two. They were about six feet high, and were about half a foot apart from each other, and extended around three sides of the court. They have long garments, with a striped ornament at the ankles, and in their left hands the sacred cross.

There are about twenty more of them on the right on entering. Many are cleared to their bases, and I copied, from the back of them, not only the name of the divinity, but also that of Sheshonk I., and did not see the name of any other king. This strange court is in a line, as I have said, with the southern propyla; east of the village of Karnak, and close to the sacred lake, which, though fed by the Nile, is unfit for drinking, from the nitrous quality of the earth.

A short distance south-west from these ruins are two beautiful fragments of rose-coloured granite, and the portion of the south wall of a temple, bearing the name of Rameses II.

CHAPTER XII.

Arrival at Erment—The Old Village of Erment—Ruins of the Temple—Decorations of the Sanctuary—Females Mourning—The Town of Esneh—The Bazaar—Beautiful Little Palace built by Mohammed Ali—Garden and Aviary—Beautiful Walk and View—Visit of the Chief Priest of the Copts at Esneh—Coptic Convents—The Guide's Difficulties with his Donkey—Interior of a Coptic Convent—Exterior of the Temple—Curious Group of Sculpture—The Sheraineh Range of Mountains—Quarrel with Nubians—Working of the Shadoof—Quarrels with the Peasantry—Arrival at El Kab—Visit to Neighbouring Tombs—English Vandalism—Interesting Picture of Egyptian Agricultural Operations—Temple of Edfoo—Great Towers of the Propylon—Magnificent Portico—The Hall of Assembly—Sculptures representing Egyptian Kings and Divinities—The Wall surrounding the Temple—Bad Character of the Edfoo Peasantry.

We left Thebes in the evening, and after an hour's uninteresting sail, arrived at Erment, the ancient Hermonthis, where there is a sugar manufactory, which has created a new and flourishing village round it. This is the work of the son of the late Ibrahim Pasha, Mustapha Pasha, who now resides at Constantinople. A mosk, good houses rent free, occupation in his lands and manufactory, soon attracted from less fa-

voured villages a sufficient population. The old village of Erment, where the temple is situated, is about a quarter of an hour's ride, or walk, from the river. The first view of the ruins, after passing a portion of the village, from the summit of the mounds of the ancient city, was very striking. Beautiful isolated columns, domes, Sheakhs' tombs, Arab cottages, with their pigeon-houses more than usually picturesque, were mingled with palm-trees, beyond them the most brilliant verdure, a strip of desert, and a range of high yellow hills. The colouring was beautiful, and the shadows, when I was there, magnificent. Towards the Nile the view is also very extensive and pleasing—of the range of distant mountains, the river, the brilliant verdure of the cultivated land, and groves of palm-trees. A string of camels, other animals, and groups of peasants, formed the foreground to this view; some of the men were well dressed, in long blue gowns and white turbans, others in very wretched brown frocks; women equally miserably clad, but with arms and necks often rich in ornaments. It is strange to see, as we often do in Egypt, gold glittering in the sun beneath rags and tatters.

This temple was erected under the reign of the celebrated Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy Auletes, in commemoration of the birth of Ptolemy Cæsarion, her son, and is worthy of careful examination, being

one of the most curious of what Champollion calls the lying-in temples. It is very much changed since I first saw it, having been used as a quarry, probably for the Pasha's new buildings. Its picturesque appearance is rather increased, though several most interesting sculptures of the inner sanctuary have been taken away. Seven columns, with Ptolemaic capitals, remain; five beautiful ones, now unencumbered with masonry (or screens), to detract from their picturesque effect. The upper portions of the shafts are covered with sculpture, but have never been finished. A portion of the screen and columns forming the entrance, and leading into what may have been a corridor before the sanctuary remain, and on the fragment of masonry supporting, with a column, the architrave, is a representation of Cleopatra, with the headdress of globe, and horns, and two feathers, making offerings to a female goddess, with globe and horns, probably Reto, who, with Mandoo, represented with a hawk's head, and their infant, Horpi-re, formed the triad worshipped here. The face of Cleopatra is uninjured, angular, and, unlike the portrait at Dendera, positively hideous. This may be the fault, however, of the artists, as the sculpture generally of this temple is very bad.

This corridor leads into a small chamber, from which, on the right hand on entering, is a winding staircase leading to the roof. On the right hand of

this small room the king is represented addressing the divinities with the hawk's head and globe, horns and feathers. On the other side is the divinity with a lion's head, above which is a figure of Typhon.

The sanctuary is curiously decorated with sculpture, chiefly relating to the birth, nursing, and education of Horpi-re. There are gods and goddesses, Cynocephali or Typhons, with large stomachs, curious head-dresses of wigs, and long thick pigtails; many with the head-dress of the globe, and horns, and two feathers. There are also depicted on the walls, owls, fish, crocodiles, foxes, geese, serpents with globes, Basis, the bull of Amenti, with Horpi-re between its horns, and many other curious nondescripts—Mandoo nursing Horpi-re on her knee, and presenting him to the gods, being the principal subjects. Over the entrance into this sanctuary is a hawk with rays, with a strange figure of a Cynocephalus, with two disks in its paws, grinning and showing its teeth, and another representation of Typhon.

The inner sanctuary, which is now destroyed, contained interesting sculpture, representing the goddess Reto being delivered of her son. The roof of the sanctuary remains, of large blocks, decorated with hieroglyphics and stars. All the exterior of the temple is decorated with sculpture.

At the back, following four representations of Athor presenting offerings of disks, is a hideous

figure of Typhon. Cleopatra's portrait may there be examined more closely. She is the first long-robed figure going from the north to the west side of the temple, making offerings to six divinities, seated, and wearing the head-dress of globe, horns, and feathers. This representation of her is less ugly than the other, but not one trace of beauty can be seen.

Of the other ruins which formerly existed here, particularly a fine temple of the time of Thothmes, there are now no remains. Erment is one of the places where antiquities are offered for sale, but I met with nothing but a pair of ear-rings.

Returning to our boat we observed about a dozen women mourning for a man who had been dead two months. Each woman, on these occasions, brings with her a small loaf of bread, which they give away to the poor. They mourn often in this way half a day once a week—in Cairo generally on the Friday.

We started at eleven, with a slight breeze, and in the night arrived at Esneh, passing El Gebelayn, a bold isolated rock rising precipitously from the river, with a Sheakh's tomb on the summit, and grottoes below; and beyond it, in the distance, a long low range of yellow rocks, and on our right a bolder and a more broken range, fringed with a narrow strip of cultivated land, dotted with acacias and palm-trees.

Esneh is a large town, but the Nile has swept

away so many of the houses on the banks of the river, that the inhabitants, naturally afraid of so dangerous a propinquity, have retreated more inland, and the remains of their former habitations have a very ruinous appearance. Mud-huts, if not kept in repair, soon crumble into dust, which is sometimes not very pleasant to wade through. One white minaret of a mosk is visible, not remarkable for its architecture, but in character with the general poverty-stricken appearance of the place. Some of the small bazaars are covered, and more respectable groups, in fresh blue gowns and white turbans, were smoking and gossiping.

The most frequented bazaar is held in a small square, but has little to boast of; coffee-cups, and their filigree copper holders, pipes, pipe-bowls, and excellent tobacco, the most minute looking-glasses that ladies ever used, besides oranges, water-melons, and small sweet grapes, were almost the only articles. The cattle, camels, oxen, and asses on sale, were of a very wretched description. Thirty years ago I recollect seeing men, women, and children for sale in the market; but this dynasty has at least the merit of diminishing, though not putting an end to, that commerce, being now less openly carried on, though it is a mistake to suppose slavery is abolished in Egypt.

The necessaries of life are, however, cheap. A day at Sioot and Esneh for the sailors to buy wheat,

and bake it into bread, forms a part of every contract for a boat on the Nile. After the sailors bring their bread from the oven, they spread it on the roof of the cabins, and the sun and wind soon dry it into biscuit. The grain costs now one hundred and twenty piastres, and the baking sixty, making altogether twenty-four shillings for the ardeb.

Below the town, on the bank of the river, is a pretty little palace, or villa, built by Mohammed Ali. A more enjoyable residence does not exist on the banks of the Nile, and great people who come here for health, and have sufficient influence, would do well to obtain it. A flight of stone steps leads up to a terrace walk, shaded by acacias, and other shrubs. The palace, situated in a garden, has a simple and unpretending façade; but the entrance and the principal rooms are spacious and lofty, with the carved wooden roofs Orientals delight in. The Pasha's rooms are furnished with Persian carpets and luxurious divans, and the numerous windows are entirely covered with thickly-padded curtains, so that the rooms can be kept thoroughly warm, or as much air and light admitted as may be required.

The little garden surrounding the palace is profusely planted with orange, lemon, cypress, acacias, and palm-trees, with hedges of Cape jessamine, and, with a little care, might be beautiful. In the wooden roof of the large and lofty porch before the entrance

of the palace, we observed small holes, just large enough to admit the little feathered songsters with which the garden abounds, forming a charming little aviary. The keeper of the palace offered us the best room to sit in during the day, and the head-gardener was equally obliging.

The air of Esneh is famous for its salubrity. Until we arrived here (3d Dec.), we always had a little damp at night, but only for a short time, one morning, has it been the least so here. The mornings are cold, but the days almost warm, even when the north wind is blowing strong; the air is dry and bracing, fresh from the vast salubrious desert, which reaches close to the east bank of the river, which is here but narrow. There is a delightful walk below the palace, on the bank of the Nile, though unfortunately rather broken by the conduits of the Sakeeas, or water-wheels. There are some splendid sycamore trees, with their picturesque trunks and roots, and the view of the range of the Sheraineh hills and promontory is very striking.

I shall never forget the view we had one delicious evening. The river was so calm it was impossible to observe the movement of the current except from the rapid progress of spars of wood, birds, or boats floating on its surface. The summit of the range of the Sheraineh is very flat, the sides most picturesquely broken, though no lines vertical; but in the reflec-

tion in the river every line was perpendicular, as if the hills had been vast ranges of stalactites, and the broad masses of shadow on the rocks were beautifully delineated in the water.

There are about one thousand Copts residing in and near Esneh. The chief priest there paid us a visit, and offered to bring us some of the sacred oil from the altar of their chapel for my poor wife's recovery from severe illness. There are two convents, one in the town, and another called Ammonius, four miles off, said to have been built at the time of the Empress Helena, in honour of the martyrs killed by Diocletian; but, according to the priest's account, it was built eighteen hundred years ago.

I visited their church in the town, and found it very inferior to the one at old Cairo. There were some old crosses in stone, and very ancient wood-carving, and some screens of tolerable design. The pictures, almost all representing St. George and the Dragon, were of the vilest description—copies of Byzantine pictures perhaps, but evidently modern fabrications. Lamps hung from the roofs, and some arches were the only pretensions to architecture.

There are many Coptic convents on the margin of the Libyan and Arabian deserts, which may be considered interesting as the probable residence of celebrated persecuted men who lived and died there, and the places of refuge of the Christians at the time of the

Arab invasion. The convent I have mentioned, called Ammonius, is considered the most ancient in the valley of the Nile, but my visit to it was accompanied with difficulties unusual to a Nile traveller. I mounted a donkey at three, and its owner assured me we should be back in an hour and a half; that he had lived in Esneh all his life, and of course knew the way to the convent E' Dayr.

Leaving Esneh to the north, we soon were amidst doorah fields. There were numerous cross roads, and my little donkey very soon began to differ with my guide about the road. The little shaytan (devil), as he called it, wished to go every way but the one he said was the right one. The turnings back were innumerable, and perhaps confused its owner's brains. Gradually the path became narrower and narrower; at last I had to dismount to force my way, with great fatigue, through the doorah interlacing the path. The boy persisted in saying we were on the right road, but at last we came to where there was not the slightest vestige of a path, and he confessed that he had missed the way.

To be lost in fields of doorah, eight feet high, miles in extent, was not pleasant. Fortunately I heard some voices of men working. The offer of a shilling, which in this country is a considerable bribe, induced one of them very reluctantly to be our guide to the convent. He made a path for us through the doorah to the

bank of a broad and deep canal, along which we rode for half an hour, my clever little donkey leaping most wonderfully the innumerable little ditches or conduits which led from it to irrigate the land.

At last an old Arab, tending his flocks of sheep, goats, and cows, showed us a place shallow enough to ford. As it took the men up to their waists, I had to be carried between our guide and my sailor in an almost horizontal position, to avoid a ducking. To get the donkey over was far more difficult, and the poor little animal, on approaching the bank, stuck in the mud, with only its head above water; the men, being strong, at last got it out.

An hour and a half from starting we arrived at the convent, at the extremity of the cultivated land. The situation is not in the slightest degree picturesque; the desert even has not its usual grandeur. The convent is surrounded with lofty walls, partly of burnt brick; and there is only one entrance, which is always kept locked. Having found the single guardian of this solitary building, he climbed over the wall, and admitted us from inside; but, broken as the wall is, it would not have been difficult to follow his example.

The enclosure contained streets of hovels rather better than Arab ones. The key of the chapel was not to be found, though great search was made for it in, I suppose, its usual hiding-place—the sand that had drifted round the door. An Arab lock presents

no great difficulties, and it soon yielded to the united force of the guardian and my men.

A dark ante-room leads into a chamber with a dome over it, presenting now only bare walls, no pictures, and no wood-work. A little stone slab over the entrance with a cross is the only vestige of antiquity. The Copts come here in crowds four times a year, especially at Christmas, to pray; but I suppose it is then decked out for the occasion.

We returned by a different and smoother road, by the village of Geri; but, before arriving there, we had to cross a small stream, where I got wet up to the ankles, from the men carrying me sinking into the mud. We had also to cross the same canal I have mentioned, on the rudest raft I ever was on, consisting of four logs of wood carelessly tied together. With a foot on each of the largest pieces, it was with the greatest difficulty I could preserve my balance.

Our road lay almost entirely, for an hour and a half, through the immense fields of doorah; a fine sight for once, but, whatever may be their associations—vague as they must ever be—I must confess I have seen quite enough of the Christian antiquities of the Nile.

It does not appear that the site of Esneh is much changed since the times of the Greeks and Romans, when it was called Latopolis, from the worship of the Latus fish, which, according to Strabo, shared with

Minerva the honours of the sanctuary. Very extensive ruins of the ancient Roman quay still remain. In one part there appears to have been an inner wall, to protect the town from the destructive river. Esneh can boast of one of the most beautiful porticoes of a temple in the valley of the Nile—one hundred and fifty-six feet wide, by seventy-four feet long. The style of the architecture is Ptolemaic, though the sculptures only contain Roman names. The cornice of the façade, which went round the temple, is very bold and handsome, and being partly protected from the rain, which sometimes falls, much of the colouring remains. The large ovals, the ground of which was coloured alternately red and yellow, make a beautiful decoration. The six columns of the façade, partly joined with screens, have the same capitals, and of the other eighteen columns only two are similar in outline to those of the façade, and even these differ in their internal decorations. There are half a dozen variations of the Ptolemaic capitals, well deserving attention. Many would think these capitals more beautiful than those of the Pharaonic period, which presented less variety, and were always more simple, and often, especially in the papyrus capital, depended on their colouring, now almost always defaced, for their effect; whereas these sculptured capitals are extremely elegant and rich, without the accessories of brilliant and varied colouring, of which they are now destitute;

but could we see both restored to their pristine beauty, I think it would be allowed that the Pharaonic were better adapted for a temple, where simplicity should be the characteristic; and the Ptolemaic for a palace or a festive hall. The columns—seventeen feet four inches in circumference—of this beautiful portico are now excavated to their bases, and the effect of twenty-four lofty columns, covered with long lines of hieroglyphics and sculpture, with circular bases and different shaped capitals, beautiful variations of the old bell-formed capital, is very imposing. Rich as the sculpture and hieroglyphics, which entirely cover the walls as well as columns of this temple, certainly are, and striking as must have been their effect when coloured, the inferiority of the execution of the sculpture, especially of the hieroglyphics, detracts sadly from their effect.

In the part recently excavated we observed a curious group of sculpture, a king between a Typhonian figure and, I think, Kneph, drawing a cord of a net, filled with aquatic birds, plants—the lotus and papyrus, the latter with its foliage—and fish, probably the latus, followed by a divinity, Seph, almost erased, with a star for a head-ornament. Beneath is a line of the divinities of the Nile, with the papyrus flower head-dress, alternately with a divinity with three reeds for a head-dress, carrying lotus-flowers in their hands.

The colour of the exterior of the temple, especially, as I have said, under the cornice, is better preserved than in the interior; the sculptures generally represent offerings to the ram-headed divinity, Chnouphis, who, with Neboo, a goddess with a vulture on her head, and globe, horns, and asp, and their son Hake, formed the triad of the place.

It is very difficult to make out the sculpture, which is considered to be a Zodiac, on the roof, from the present great height of the temple, and the mud wall opposite it diminishing the light.

In the most northern aisle is a god with a human head, and divinities standing on disks. In the next but one is a scarabæus, doubtless for the crab. In the centre aisle, as is very common in Egyptian temples, is a line of the goddess Eileithyia, or vultures with outstretched wings, with a line of hieroglyphics between each. In the next aisle a scarabæus again: three jackals, or dogs, three cynocephali, and an animal with a globe on its head, in a boat, may be a goat, but it is much injured. In the next, I think a goat with globe on its head, serpents, and decidedly the scorpion, and, I think, a bull, or cow, accompanied by gods and goddesses. The last, south aisle, contains a winged goat, a goat and a hawk-headed sphinx, cynocephali and serpents.

It is to be regretted that the Arab houses, amongst which this beautiful portico is almost buried, are not

cleared away. The large wall, however, round the façade protects the temple, and in the midst of the bustling town you may there enjoy solitude.

Thirty years ago I visited some ruins three miles from Esneh. The way to them lies through the rich verdant plain, bounded by a fine range of hills, one very high in the centre called Gebobah. The remains consisted of one column only, and a doorway ornamented with sculpture, with a vast heap of ruins and stones around. I mention these as they are not noticed in the Handbook, otherwise I refrain generally from mentioning ruins not worth seeing; and which, doubtless, are now destroyed, though my note records that the richness and beauty of the country recompensed us for a long and hot walk.

The next day, with a slight breeze, we passed El Helleh, situated under a grove of palms, on a narrow slip of land which separates the Nile from a low monotonous range of hills. Our view to the west was bounded only by the horizon. The Handbook describes some unimportant remains of the ancient city of Contra-Laton. The talcose stones found in this neighbourhood are used in the making the large earthen vessels used by the peasants for cooking. The breeze failing, we soon had to track, and, towards evening, passed the range of hills called Sheraineh, with caves or tombs excavated in the rock, and adorned with rather a picturesque sepulchre of a Sheakh.

We overtook a Nubian boat, and because all our men went on it to pass the rope instead of only two, a terrible quarrel arose. The Nubians took up their sticks, and our sailors did the same in self-defence; and we thought there would have been a grand battle, but our clever dragoman succeeded in pacifying them. The Nubians are said to be very quarrelsome; but all the Arabs like a row, though, amongst the fellahs, it seldom ends in a fight.

We slept last night at the village of Sabaten, and, towing again this morning, passed early El Kenan. At ten, a slight breeze sprang up to enliven us, as the scenery was very tame, the country little cultivated, and scarcely a tree to be seen; we observed a small ruined pyramid, called El Koola, on our right, and on our left an uninteresting range of hills, which are now, for the first time, of sandstone. In lower Egypt the shadoofs, or poles and buckets, are seldom seen more than two together; but to-day I counted one group of seven, each bucket having its man. These raised the water a certain height, and then seven more shadoofs emptied it on the land, which appears to be about twenty feet above the level of the river. Such is the depth here of the black, rich, alluvial soil, even now that the river is far from being at its lowest point.

The peasants work naked, with cotton caps on their heads, and small coverings round their waists. Some-

times they quarrelled with our sailors for interrupting them, and their screams drowned even the creaking of their shadoofs. In the evening we arrived at El Kab, the ancient Eileithyias. The inhabitants might well make Lucina their deity, to mitigate to females in interesting situations the cheerless aspect of their country. A lofty mud wall, imposing in its extent and thickness, surrounds the site of the ancient town. In the dreary, wavy, low hill, I counted about thirty tombs. The strip of land that separates the river from the Great Eastern Desert is very narrow, and, immediately before the town, uncultivated. The chain of hills ends in rather a picturesque rock.

With the aid of a donkey, in twenty minutes we arrived at the tombs, and visited all of any interest. The most important little tomb, with its roof cut in the shape of an arch, and its three mutilated divinities in the recess at the end, is much injured, since I copied some of the paintings in it on my first visit up the Nile. Whether this change is owing to paper impressions having been taken of the paintings, or the whole breadth of the tomb being open to the air, I cannot say; but it was painful to see the number of English names which now deface the interesting agricultural scene.

Though this celebrated painting has little merit as a specimen of Egyptian art, it is a complete picture of Egyptian farming—the ploughing and sowing.

The hieroglyphic inscription, as translated by Champollion, says—

> "Work, oxen, work ;
> Bushels for you, and bushels for your master."

Then there is the reaping the wheat with the sickle, and plucking up the more lofty doorah by the roots, the grain of the latter being separated from the stalks on the thrashing-floor by being drawn through a pronged instrument, while the wheat was trod out by oxen, as at the present day. The Egyptians had a song for this also—

> "Thrash ye for yourselves,
> Thrash ye for yourselves, O oxen ;
> Thrash ye for yourselves ;
> Thrash ye for yourselves ;
> The straw which is yours ;
> The corn which is your master's."
> *Birch's* "*Egyptian Hieroglyphics*," 266.

Then the winnowing, and measuring, and housing the grain are represented, and the car and horse of the proprietor show that he is overlooking the work. There is no earlier representation of horses on Egyptian monuments, though at a later period this country was celebrated for chariots and horses.

The other subjects in this tomb are also deserving attention. The various representations of boats, one with a chariot on board ; the catching geese and fish in a net, and drying them ; and in the last compartment, the funeral ceremonies and presentations

of offerings to Osiris. On the opposite side, the owner of the tomb and his wife are seated, with cynocephali under their feet; and men and women, with the flowers and buds of the lotus-flower, are seated on their heels at a banquet. Servants are giving them refreshments, and the ladies have musicians with a harp and pipe to amuse them.

In another tomb, there is a long inscription of hieroglyphics, from which I copied the titles of Amosis and Amunoph I. In another tomb, unfortunately much injured, are fragments of cattle, and a representation of a plan of a house, field, and gardens, with palms, sycamores, and two obelisks; the deceased lying on his bier, and women mourning, throwing dirt on their heads, and other funeral mysteries; Osiris attended by Anubis.

Climbing up the hill, I came to a small tomb with fragments of hieroglyphics well executed on the outside, containing recesses for mummies, and on the walls two of the small stellæ (much injured) so common in collections, affording an opportunity of seeing how they were placed in the tombs, being merely portions of the natural rock smoothed and prepared for the sculptor or painter.

I visited two other tombs, but found nothing of any interest. There are some remains of very small temples of the eighteenth and Ptolemaic dynasties, about two or three miles up the valley, which I visited

on my first voyage up the Nile, and, recollecting that they were of little importance, I regretted less being unable to visit them again.

Leaving the village of El Kab, the country is very uninteresting, the range of hills on our left very low, and on our right the bank for some distance was covered with acacias, and a few palms filled with feathered songsters, who made a prodigious but not very musical noise.

The pyramidal towers or propyla of the temple of Edfoo, the ancient Apollinopolis Magna, are very imposing from the river, from their great height, compared with the low part of the village around them. The great towers are still more imposing when you approach them—stronger fortresses to protect a priesthood, or keep in subjection a refractory city, could not well be devised. They are now cleared almost to their bases, and on the front of them the king is seen sacrificing prisoners, much defaced, but I observed one with negro features. The exterior of the temple is cleared to its foundation, but not the outside of the lofty wall which enclosed it, which prevented our judging so well of its architectural effect. The rows of divinities on the façade are very striking. The offerings are chiefly to the hawk-headed god, Hor-Hat. On the bold cornice round the temple this god, as Agathodæmon, represented by the winged globe and serpents so constantly seen in

Egyptian temples, alternately with the two erect winged serpents, forms almost the only ornament. A walk on the enclosing wall, and at its base, should be made, to see how carefully and beautifully every part of this edifice is finished. The interesting sculpture now discovered there I will mention further on.

Every portion of the interior of this great temple is now cleared out, and, immense as its size is, scarcely a yard of wall is uncovered with sculpture and hieroglyphics.

The view on entering the area before the portico is very imposing. The ravages of about two thousand one hundred years are perceptible on every column, and on every figure and ornament, but the effect of the architecture is not destroyed. There are half a dozen varieties of the Ptolemaic capitals, which adorn the thirty well-proportioned columns on each side, including those at the angles, which, with the six at the entrance, form a corridor round three sides of the court. The wall, and some of the columns on the north-west side, are out of perpendicular, from the pressure of the earth outside. The architraves, cornices, and roof are almost perfect, and carefully covered with sculpture.

On the other, the fourth, side of the area is the magnificent portico of the temple, with six columns in front, and a dozen more behind these, partly visible in perspective. The screens with which the front six

are joined, to about half their height, have not a bad effect, even injured as is now the sculpture, inculcating to the people the usual example of the king making offerings to the divinities Hor-Hat and Athor. Round the area, in the lowest row, are sacred boats and a long line of divinities offering vases and flowers. Above these are bold and, for the period, well-executed hieroglyphics in relief, containing the name of Euergetes II., and a representation of the great propyla. The sculpture on the back of the latter attracts attention, from its size and boldness.

The portico is very grand, with its eighteen columns, measuring at their base twenty-two feet in circumference, without counting their circular bases, resting on square slabs. Some of the capitals differ from any others seen elsewhere. The central avenue is partly uncovered, removed, or fallen; as the slabs of the roof thus exposed are not covered with hieroglyphics, which they otherwise would have been. The light thus admitted affords splendid effects of light and shadow. The fine proportions of this portico, the gloom and grandeur of the broad shadows of the majestic columns, and the feeling that we have here the nearest approach to what an Egyptian temple must have been, are very imposing. It was delightful to return again and again from the glaring sunshine to the refreshing coolness of this noble portico.

Better specimens of sculpture will be seen at Thebes and elsewhere, but although all the colouring is gone the architecture and the decorations are truly magnificent. There is much interesting sculpture representing the boats of the Sun and Moon, and the twelve hours of the day, and divinities spearing the serpent Aphophis. (See note, p. 209.) In the lowest row of sculpture on the walls there are some curious representations of divinities of the Nile.

This portico leads into the Hall of Assembly, which is adorned with twelve beautiful columns, sixteen feet in circumference at their widest part, but they diminish gracefully towards their bases. The capitals have the papyrus outline, with the internal Ptolemaic variations. Hor-Hat is represented on the columns with the body of a lion, the head of a hawk on which is the pschent, and the staff of purity in his paw. The bases of the walls are decorated prettily with the lotus-flower. There are small rooms leading to the exterior on each side, but containing nothing of importance, and only partly cleared of soil. The Hall of Assembly leads into a corridor with small rooms on each side. The corridor leads into a sanctuary with eight small rooms around it, containing little of interest. I observed the divinities Khem, Khonso, and Thoth, but Hor-Hat is always the chief god; one room contains long inscriptions of hieroglyphics, and others are not cleared. The sanctuary is

an isolated temple of itself with its cornice. In one corner of it is a very elegant granite shrine, about eight or nine feet high, ornamented with two winged globes and serpents, with a dedication to Hor-Hat, with three lines of inscriptions on each side, beginning with, "This is to Hor-Hat, the good god, lord of heaven, and lord of the world;" and containing the names and titles of Amyrtæus, or Nectanebo, the only king of the twenty-eighth dynasty, who reigned about one hundred and sixty years before the oldest Ptolemaic name on this temple. The sculpture on the walls represents Ptolemy Euergetes making offerings to Hor-Hat, behind whom is Athor; and there is a row of the divinities of the Nile with the lotus-flower head-dress.

At the back of the temple is a well-preserved portrait of a Ptolemy making offerings to Pasht, the goddess with the lioness's head, disk, and serpents, behind whom is an immense tablet of hieroglyphics, containing the name but not the prænomen of the king. Physcon's name is on the opposite wall, where also is a Ptolemy, with name erased, but accompanied by Cleopatra, his wife. On the immense side, or west wall of the enclosure, beginning from the north, the recent excavations present some interesting sculptures.

In the first compartment is a boat, ornamented with a hawk wearing the disk, and Hor-Hat wear-

ing the pschent, and accompanied by Isis, spearing, and with a rope catching a crocodile. The second and third contain similar representations; the animals are, I think, serpents. In the fourth, a hippopotamus, though the size is more that of a pig; the divinity with Hor-Hat is probably Athor. The fifth, sixth, and seventh are defaced. One divinity in the boat (probably Typhon) is represented with a kind of jackal's head, showing his tongue and teeth. Horus is seated on a throne before one boat, and Horus with Isis behind him, and Hor-Hat, are spearing a kneeling figure with arms bound together.

The next subject above contains three boats, and beneath is a boat with a sail containing Hor-Hat spearing or contending with the evil demon Aphophis, and Horus and Isis kneeling. Further on are six divinities with disks, or tambourines, in their hands, and Hor-Hat spearing a larger representation of the hippopotamus, one of the symbols of the god of the lower regions, before Osiris. The faces of these divinities are all defaced, their outlines only traceable. I name them from the hieroglyphics only. The faces of the figures in the lowest row of the enclosing wall are apparently only injured by time, as if they had been for ages covered with earth, but all the figures of the upper rows have evidently had their faces and head-dresses picked designedly.

There are other mysterious objects deserving of

attention. Near a small boat with a sail is a sphinx, with a human head, on two naked men. Between almost all these boats are long tablets of hieroglyphics, and below them a line of divinities of the Nile. On the exterior of the temple on this the western side is a representation of Horus and Thoth pouring emblems of life and purity over the king.

The effect of all this sculpture even without colouring is very fine. The vast space of richly-decorated wall, without other ornament than the beading and cornice, is only disagreeably broken by the water conduits, ornamented with lions' heads. The space between the enclosing wall and the temple is about five paces, and between the former and the portico only two; and yet even there the sculpture is as rich. The number of hieroglyphic inscriptions discovered by these important excavations is very considerable, especially at the back of the temple, where there are a dozen of forty long lines each, alluding to the Ptolemies, whose names occur continually in them, blocks being generally left for their distinguishing titles. Between the temple and enclosing wall on the eastern side are several troughs and a well.

The exterior of the enclosing wall is also covered with sculpture, which the peasants were clearing, making such a dust that it was scarcely possible to examine the sculpture. The small temple south of the great temple is now filled with rubbish. A half-

defaced Typhonian figure shows it was one of those temples called by Champollion lying-in places.

The peasants of Edfoo had ever the reputation of being the most ill-behaved rascals to strangers in the whole valley of the Nile; and I have always found that they deserved the character. While I was paying one man for a scarabæus, another picked up my spectacles, and I never saw them again; and when making notes between the enclosing wall of the temple —a safe place for an assault, as I could not follow them—two stones of considerable size were thrown at me. They appear to be as quarrelsome among themselves, as I observed two serious rows as I passed through the village.

CHAPTER XIII.

Wilder and more Desolate Scenery—Ruins of an Ancient Arab Town and Mosk—Village of Massaheed—Dates, the Chief Wealth of the Country—Quarries of Gebel Silsilis—Mode of Excavation—Tombs, Chapels, and Grottoes—Beautiful View—Rocky Bed of the River—Temple of Ombos—Plan of the Temple—The Osshi Plant and the Castor Oil Shrub—Asouan—Picturesque Scene—Journey to the Quarries—The Obelisk—Tombs of Derwishes and Sheakhs—Mosk of Amer—Island of Elephantine—Extensive Ruins—View from the West Side of the Island—The Stone Pier—Arrival of the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres—Visit to the Cataracts—The Little Cataract—Sailing up the Rapids—Passing the Principal Fall—Clamour of the Nubians—Rash Attempt of an Englishman to swim down the Cataract—Island of Philæ—Ruins of Temples—Roman Gateway—View from the West Side of the Great Temple—Interesting Sculptures—Beautiful Ptolemaic Portico.

AFTER leaving Edfoo, our view to the west was bounded by the horizon, but we had on our left a range of sand-hills, and numerous groups of palms. The hills became more picturesque towards evening, especially at Gebel Sesay, which rises precipitately from the river, separated from it only by a fringe of cultivated land. The river narrows rapidly, and the

general character of the views is wilder and more desolate. The upper part of some of these rocks near the river being in many places quite perpendicular, so different from the general monotonous form of the sand-hills adjoining, leads me to think that they have been quarried.

Shortly afterwards, on the slope of one of these hills, we saw the extensive and picturesque ruins of an ancient Arab town, called Booayb, with very thick walls; and observed, near the summit of the hill, a large round tower, wide at the base, and gradually narrowing. There appeared, also, to be the ruins of a mosk with arches. The town may well be deserted, as there is barely enough arable land in it to sustain a single family.

After such a desert the village of Massaheed, which we soon passed, surrounded by a beautiful grove of palm-trees, was like an oasis. The beauty of the groves of acacias and palms is more striking here than in Lower Egypt, from their contrast with the dreary deserts which surround and often isolate them. The dates, which are now the chief wealth of the country, are much superior to those of Lower Egypt, and great quantities of them are exported there.

We soon arrived at Gebel Silsilis, or the mountain of the chain; it is very interesting for its immense quarries, which furnished the greatest part of the stone

of which the gigantic temples of Thebes, and other towns, were built. Being close to the river, the expense of carriage to the different places could not be great; and from most of the quarries that are at a greater distance from the river there are partially inclined roads, which would diminish the difficulty of conveying such immense masses to the water. It does not appear to have been generally their plan to excavate the stone, as they did their granite, which was probably conveyed by land, of or nearly the shape required for the temples, as the Sicilians did their columns at Selinunte, but to have cut and conveyed away the stone in large slabs. I observed, however, a sphinx, rudely executed, in the quarries of the eastern bank, and close adjoining to it the traces of its form in the rock from which it had been excavated. The evenness of the texture of the stone is very remarkable, but not being so smooth as the limestone of which the most ancient edifices of Egypt were constructed, and more absorbing of colour, the Egyptians were obliged to cover it with a coat of calcareous composition before they coloured it. The number of workmen, and their superintendents, employed here, will account for the beautiful chapels and tombs which still exist.

The first we examined, on the western side of the river, is a corridor, seventy-seven feet three inches long, and ten feet eight inches wide, hewn out of the

rock, with five entrances, formed by four very massive pillars. The central entrance is ornamented with the winged globe and serpents, and hieroglyphics containing the name of King Horus, of the eighteenth dynasty. At the side of the end entrance are excavated small recesses, in each of which are traces of three figures; and at the north end of the corridor are traces of six figures. The west wall is divided into large stellæ, or tablets, ornamented with figures, now much defaced, but Horus is seen making offerings to Amun Ra and Savak, the lord of Heni, or Silsilis; and there are hieroglyphics containing the names of various other kings of the eighteenth dynasty, and statues cut in the rock. A door leads from the corridor into a sanctuary thirteen feet square, and in a large recess at the end of it are traces of divinities—Amun Ra, apparently, in the centre. The sculpture in this room is rather less injured. Rameses II. is represented making offerings to Amun Ra, Maut, and Khonso, and also to Pthah. The king in his shrine, preceded by troops and captives, may be distinguished, with difficulty, at the southern end; and there are three rows of mummy-shaped divinities, without head-dresses, holding the staff of purity in their hands. Five minutes further south are some beautiful tablets on the rock, representing Rameses I., and Sheshonk II., and Rameses III., making offerings to the Theban triad.

Passing two of no importance, we then examined a small grotto, containing four chambers, with figures in recesses. The entrance bears the name of Thothmes III., and is well executed.

One of these grottoes was delightfully situated at some height above the river, and the breeze was so cool and refreshing, and the view so beautiful of the winding Nile, and distant plains, groves, and hills, that I sat for some time enjoying it.

With a slight breeze we sailed to the southern grottoes. The lines of stone, like natural strata, that have been cut away, are still distinguishable. The tombs in the perpendicular rock are tempting to climb to, but I knew from experience that they were not worth visiting.

The rocks became, for a few minutes, more tame, and then we reached a most picturesque group of open chapels, ornamented with beautiful columns, and mingled with wild broken rocks, shrubs, and herbage, forming a splendid subject for an artist. The view from them is very interesting, of the quarries, the sand hills of the Arabian desert, and of the narrow river, here not above one thousand one hundred feet wide, where the Nile is supposed to have broken through impeding rocks, similar to what we see at Asouan. The architecture of all these chapels is the same, being recesses thirteen feet wide and eight feet deep, including the two beautiful columns, with bud-

shaped capitals, which ornament each angle. Over the elegant cornice is a row of serpents with disks. In the first of the chapels King Pthahmen is presenting incense and flowers to Amun Ra, Maut, and Khonso; on the north of which the king is addressing Ré and Pthah, followed by the god Nilus with the lotus-flower head-dress, who may well be worshipped here where he is so serviceable. Under these figures is a long tablet of hieroglyphics.

In the next, Rameses II. is making offerings to the same divinities. On the north side, in the second row, he is offering incense to Osiris and Isis, and on the south side his queen is offering a sistrum to a curious Typhonian figure—hieroglyphics illegible—with a human head, globe, horns, and serpents, with the body of a bear, accompanied by Thoth.

The next chapel is much injured, only one column remaining. King Sethi's name may be distinguished, but the sculpture is defaced.

The quarries of the Eastern desert are almost seen sufficiently from the river, as there are no grottoes of importance; but I explored them on my first visit to Egypt. The quarries there are very extensive. After passing the statue of the sphinx I have mentioned, we came to an excavation of immense extent, a corridor, with columns, like the one I have mentioned on the western bank, but never finished. We afterwards climbed a hill, and had a fine view of the

plain. On one side the desert, and on the other verdure, and, near the borders of the river, groves of palm-trees.

The ancient as well as the modern inhabitants were more anxious for the durability of their tombs than their houses, as none of the latter remain. The Arab cottages are rude and barbarous, affording neither heat nor shade, but the tombs of the Sheakhs, and especially of the saints, which adorn almost every village, and many hills, are not only strongly built, but have some pretensions to architectural beauty, being always covered with a small but picturesque dome.

As we dragged away from Gebel Silsilis, we had a proof of the rocky nature of the bed of the river, strongly corroborative of Sir G. Wilkinson's supposition that here was anciently the first cataract of the Nile. Our boat got amongst rocks, and, if it had not been very strong, we should have had water in her. For some time we went bumping from rock to rock, the men screaming, and the réïs in great alarm for his boat. I was glad when a breeze sprung up, and enabled us to stear clear of such a deceptive shore, apparently of the soft mud of the Nile, but, underneath the surface of the water, sandstone rocks. Early in the morning a calm obliged the men to push the boat along with their poles, which is a sad disturbance of rest, though the sailors, at that early

hour, did refrain from the chants they generally sing when thus engaged.

The temple of Ombos is situated a considerable height above the river. For a weak man, it was fatiguing climbing up to it. The view from the summit is extensive, but flat; the beautiful ruins, however, make it interesting. The temple of Ombos, founded in the reign of Ptolemy Philometor, is certainly one of the most elegant and picturesque ruins on the Nile. A small stone doorway, bearing the name of Thothmes III., leads into the brick enclosure which surrounds what is called in the hieroglyphic inscription, the temple of Savak.

The principal temple stands alone, without any mud-huts to detract from its appearance; and for the remains of colour on the cornices, roofs, and architraves, for the richness of the interesting sculpture, and the grandeur of the architecture, it is deserving of great admiration. The plan is different from any other in the valley of the Nile, being a kind of double temple, in which the crocodile god, Savak, was worshipped with Aroeris; and still retaining the fragments of the cornices of a double entrance, each ornamented with the winged globe, the colouring of which partly remains, and the roofs of the avenues they lead into were decorated with representations of Eileithyias.

Thirteen columns of the portico are still standing in three rows, with different variations of the lotus

capitals. Savak and Aroeris, the crocodile and hawk-headed divinities, will be seen on the walls. The roof still retains much of the colouring. The sculpture on the architraves is interesting, representing sacred boats, and between them the divinity with two serpents for a head-dress, holding in each hand a serpent; and there are gods with head-dresses of globes containing stars. Some of these figures retain the squares with which provincial and inexpert artists used to assist their drawing.

The portico leads into a chamber, where the capitals of the columns which decorated it may still be seen above the sand, and there are traces of at least three other rooms. The masses of architraves lying about are of an immense size. There is a fine bold fragment of masonry at the corner of the enclosure, ornamented with sculpture, representing, on the south side, the king making offerings to Savak and Aroeris. The side of this ruin towards the river is in form almost like a Norman tower, and is richly decorated; the king making offerings to different divinities, and in the centre, or recess part of the tower, the king is seen seated, and there are rich decorations of serpents alternately with emblems of life and purity.

After leaving Ombos, our voyage was wearisome as we tracked along the narrow and uninteresting river, there being no boats to enliven it—as in Lower Egypt—and few inhabitants to be seen. The country is

quite Nubian in character, the banks consisting generally of little strips of cultivated land, the western desert reaching almost to the river, affording certainly a striking contrast of colour to the magnificent date-trees on the bank. This tree has often here five or six stems growing from the root, and is far more beautiful than the palm of Lower Egypt.

We passed a low range of hills on our left, called Gebel Akabeh, but very monotonous compared to the bold limestone cliffs of Lower Egypt. Sometimes the desert reaches to the banks on both sides of the river.

The osshi plant grows in great quantities, and the castor oil shrub, eight feet high, which furnishes oil to soften the effects of a baking sun on the generally naked bodies of the peasants. If it were not for the frequent groves of palm-trees, and occasionally strips of cultivated land, we might be sailing through a desert.

The views improved gradually as the sandstone changed into granite, and we approached the fine scenery of Asouan. The rocks of granite in the Island of Elephantine opposite, and the granite boulders mixed with the masonry of ancient buildings, the groves of palm-trees, with yellow hills behind, the walls of a partly Roman and partly Saracenic bath, and the hills around covered with Arab ruins, are very picturesque. On the quay were half a dozen wrecks of large boats, some the work of the cataract, others repairing; and about a dozen

boats were loading and unloading, mostly bales of calico, which are sent from here across the desert to Shendy and Sennaar, and other places in the south. The tents of the owners, the groups of the Nubian merchants in their white turbans, the picturesque natives of Asouan squatting on the ground, smoking their shebooks; the camels waiting sadly for their loads, as if aware of the terrible journey across the desert, where so many perish; a few donkeys as lively and strong, and, what is a novelty, almost as well caparisoned as the donkeys in Cairo, formed a picturesque scene. But the noise of the Arab porters, of the vendors of poultry, charcoal, antiquities, ornaments, and arms, and the screams and quarrels which arose whenever there was any question of money, or backsheesh, created a din which at times was rather overpowering.

The Island of Elephantine is a more quiet place to stay at, and there is a tolerably hard sandy beach to walk on. The granite quarries are well worthy of a visit. The road to them is interesting; passing the Arab wall built by Amer, the lieutenant of the Caliph Omar, and then over the vast brick remains of the ancient town. The bleak appearance of the desert, the granite boulders cropping out wildly in every direction, and the ruins of mosks and other buildings with pretensions to architecture, being constructed, many of them, with circular arches, and especially a

view of these buildings before we arrived at the obelisk, were very picturesque. The obelisk, which is the chief attraction of the quarries, is a puzzle to travellers, as there are lines upon it four or five inches deep, with forty or fifty little holes two and three inches wide, and one inch and a half between each, as if, probably, for simultaneous blows with instruments; but these grooves do not appear deep enough for the action of water. The Egyptian obelisks were reduced to their required dimensions before they were removed from the quarries.

We visited the groups of Dervishes' and Sheakhs' tombs, some with cufic inscriptions, which had such a picturesque effect in the distance. Many of them have pointed arches, but the architecture of most of them consisted of four arches, with four or more smaller ones over these, and over the latter a dome.

We visited the mosk of Amer, which is adorned with circular arches, of which several remain, and four monolithic granite columns. The view from it is very wild and grand, over the immense cemetery with its numerous domes and tombstones, and towards the river the granite rocks of the cataract, the lofty sandy hills behind the Island of Elephantine, and below them other ruins, and the granite islands in the river, with scarcely any cultivated land, or anything green visible, but extensive groves of palm-trees,

forming a striking contrast to the terrible wildness of the ruins and barren hills around them. The Island of Elephantine is still worth visiting, though the temples which adorned it are destroyed. There are remains of Roman quays, mixed with projecting boulders of granite. Amongst the vast extent of brick ruins there is a much injured sitting granite statue, and two sides of a granite gateway, ornamented with sculpture, representing the son of Alexander the Great making offerings to the God Kneph. At the highest point of the mounds of brick and pottery there is a fine view towards the cataract. The granite hills and numerous little islands being of a dark, almost black, colour, form a striking contrast to the hills behind, covered with deep-yellow sand. The view from the west side of Elephantine is very beautiful; the granite islands rise more boldly from the river, and the contrast of colour between the palm-trees and the deep-yellow sand on the hill crowned with a Sheakh's tomb, is very striking. The view of Asouan, from Elephantine, is also very picturesque.

We had a delightful row round the island; the granite rocks in the river, and the groves of palms, formed continually picturesque scenes. On a rock at the south end of Elephantine, we observed traces of its having been quarried. On one of the granite rocks rising from the river, on the east side of the

island, I observed, inscribed in very large hieroglyphics, the name of Psammitichus II., confirming Herodotus's account of his visit to this district. The stone pier is Ptolemaic or Roman, many of the massive stones having fragments of sculpture and names on them, and evidently brought from other buildings. In one part of the pier is a doorway leading to the staircase of the nilometer, but from the boat we were in we did not observe any sculpture.

The first two days we were at Asouan the réïs of the cataract was engaged in taking a boat across the rapids. Then the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres arrived in a magnificent boat of the Pasha of Egypt's, generally used for his harem, towed by a large steamer. Such a compliment to the powers that may be, is a proof of the sagacity of Said Pasha. The boat was far too large to pass the cataracts, and the réïs was engaged another day, shewing them the boats they could have for their Nubian voyage. They engaged seven, and furnished them with the furniture from the Pasha's boat; but doubtless they would find other occupiers in the Nubian boats, which would make them regret they had not hired a dahabeeah at Cairo.

It is to be regretted there is no fixed tariff for boats passing the cataract. Half a dozen of the réïs came to our boat, and, after partaking of coffee, they began to bargain, their principle being to extort from

each traveller as much as they can. They asked us twenty pounds, and we offered them four pounds. After a long discussion, without which no Arab bargain is ever made, they came down to ten pounds; but as I refused to give them more than six, they went away, and I said I should refer the matter to the Government. The next day they consented to my price, and I agreed also to give about one pound a month for a pilot to the second cataract and back. Considerable preparations were made for the passage of the cataract. Our decks were cleared for action; tents taken down, divans packed up, and, what does not say much for the reputation of the Nubians for honesty, my servants were most careful in removing out of their way everything that was portable.

With a fresh breeze we sailed towards the cataract, and stopped at a sand-bank, near the Bab-el-Sehayl. The scenery was wild and picturesque. South-east of us, near the little cataract, making a great noise for its size, were low but picturesque granite hills, and an Arab boat waiting to pass the cataract; towards the west other rapids, and a long range of yellow hills, granite boulders cropping out from the yellow glaring sand that has drifted there from the Libyan Desert, and below them an Arab village. Towards the north the rocks are bolder; one like the ruins of a castle. Nor was verdure entirely wanting,

for, as we advanced, a few stunted acacias and palm-trees were mingled with the rocks.

We passed the first little fall of the cataract, with the assistance of about sixty Arabs, commanded by half a dozen Sheakhs, no one apparently with the chief command, but all screaming and squalling at once. Aided by a strong wind, they, in a few minutes, pulled us over with a thick rope. We had frequently minor difficulties sailing up the smaller rapids. The cataract may be said, indeed, to be a continuation of rapids. Often five or six Arabs, stripped almost naked, went ashore with the rope. The Nubians seem a lazy set even in moments of great emergency. Our own réïs and his crew appeared to be the only persons who cared about the safety of the boat, and worked with any energy.

The views were singularly wild. The immediate contact we were brought into with the vast masses of granite, sometimes striking against them, was very exciting; and the picturesque groups of Nubians in their white dresses and caps, some swimming in the river on logs of wood, fit inhabitants for such a scene, were very characteristic. Approaching the grand fall, we tried in vain to pass a narrower rapid, but our boat turned tail most awkwardly, and appeared to be returning to Asouan. Our cataract réïs stripped to the skin, plunged with others into the

water, and soon saved us from all danger. Our sailors hugged the rocks on one side as closely as they could, the fall of water being much greater in the centre.

The screaming of the Nubians is certainly the most formidable part of passing the cataract. It was quite a relief when they broke into a chorus, Mohamed-Allah, &c., as they dragged us along with cords. Soon we arrived at Rassihool, the great gate of the cataract, which looks more formidable, but is still but a mighty rapid, five or six feet high. Before passing this, the principal fall, the boat rested in a sheltered nook to breathe, as it were, and make preparations for the great struggle.

A young brave Englishman, Mr. Daniel Cave, lost his life this winter in attempting to swim down this cataract. His companion, Mr. Morrison, M.P. for Plymouth, has kindly given me a history of this sad event.

Early on the morning of January 30th, 1861, we dropped down in our "dahabéeah," from Philæ to Mahatta, the Nubian village on the east bank above the rapids. We were to descend the cataract that day. Soon after daybreak, Cave left the "dahabéeah" in the small boat, or "sandal" belonging to it, and which, in accordance with the usual practice, had been entrusted to the care of two of the cataract men, and of a boy of about sixteen years of age, to be taken

down to Asouan by a different channel. They were instructed to land him above the so-called "upper gate," the last fall encountered by boats ascending the cataract, and to wait his orders. As he passed out of the "dahabéeah," he asked me to come with him, and take another look at the cataract; but I had been up very late the night before, and was suffering besides from a bad sprain of my ankle, so I remained in bed. About an hour and a half, as near as I could judge, after he left the boat, I came on deck. Finding that he had not returned, and learning from our dragoman that he had left word for me to start without him should he not return, and that he would either come on board again as we passed down, or make his way down to Asouan in the sandal, after a short delay I gave orders to the réïs of the cataract to start. We had gone but a few hundred yards, when our attention was attracted by a confusion in the village, and the shrill wailing of the women, and we saw men running after us along the bank. With some difficulty we got the boat's head round, and reached the bank. Then we heard from the men who had been in charge of the sandal of his death.

It appeared, from their account—and it is due to these poor fellows that I should say that, after a very full inquiry, I saw no reason to disbelieve their narrative—that they had put the boat into a small bight,

or backwater, formed by a projection in the rock some hundred yards above the "upper gate." Cave landed, and walked towards the fall; the two men remained in the boat, occupied in fitting a spare oar to the stern, to act as a temporary rudder. The Nubian boy left the boat, and followed out of curiosity. Presently he came running back to say that the "howagee" was preparing to bathe. The men left the boat, and made the best of their way to where he was standing; but, before they could reach him, he had got off his clothes, and had jumped in. For a moment they caught sight of his head and shoulders, as he allowed himself to be carried down rapidly by the current; then he suddenly disappeared in the broken water just below the fall. For an hour they remained on the rock watching the eddies, expecting the body to appear again, but in vain. At last they came back to me.

Such was the strength of the current, and so many the streams into which the river is divided below the fall, that all our efforts to recover the body were vain. I had almost given up the watch for it in despair, when, nine days after the accident, on February 8th, as I was visiting the posts where I had set men to watch in the cataract, we came upon the body, not far below the place where it had gone down. There were no marks of violence upon it, and the attitude was that of a person swimming as if he had struggled manfully to the last.

On the following day we buried the remains in a grave which had been prepared in a Coptic cemetery; an English clergyman, then at Asouan with a party of travellers, read the service in the presence of all the Europeans on the spot, and of a very large number of the inhabitants of the town; and I well remember, as we threw upon the coffin a few handfuls of the arid sand, that the bystanders who crowded round the grave, Moslems as well as Copts, pressed forward, and threw in each his handful, as if he wished to bear his part in the rite.

What could have been the motive for this rash act? Every Nile traveller remembers the Nubian boys riding down the rapids mounted on their palm-logs. More than once Cave had spoken to me of going down with them. Even the day before his death, he had recurred to the subject to a friend at Philæ, though of this I was at the time unaware. He at all times had manifested a most daring spirit; and it cannot now be determined whether he had resolved to attempt the feat when he left the boat that morning, or came to a sudden decision on reaching the spot.

Had he, like the cataract men, availed himself of the support of a palm-log, the issue would, no doubt, have been different.

Some days after the accident, some natives, in a spirit of bravado, went down the same rapid without their logs with impunity; but I was informed by

those who saw them that, not to mention the wonderful skill of all these men in the water, they keep their bodies as horizontal as possible, as they are swept along, swimming all the time; whereas it seems that Cave had floated down, keeping his body upright, and thus no doubt was exposed to the full force of the under-current below the surface water beneath the fall.

The Governor of Asouan had been, I understood, pipe-bearer to Fadil Pasha, the then Governor of Upper Egypt, to whom he had made himself very useful in some domestic troubles. An investigation ensued into the causes of the accident; and I soon found the Governor to be most incapable of conducting it. A quarrel arose between us on my insisting that the three cataract men should be examined apart from one another, and that I should be permitted to cross-examine them when he had finished with them. I also ascertained that he had attempted to extort money from them and my dragoman, under threat of reporting them to his Government as being answerable for the death of a traveller in their charge. Pretending outwardly to be anxious to assist me in every way, he secretly put every impediment in my path; he threatened with his vengeance anyone who should work for me, and it was with great difficulty that I got together a few men to watch the cataract and the backwater below Asouan, for the body, and to help in building the grave.

On this I had to work with my own hands, and to employ the services of my crew, services willingly and zealously given. Much, too, I owe to the faithful service of my dragoman, Alee Mousa, of Alexandria, on this, as on subsequent occasions, when he has been with me; and to kind friends at Asouan, who freely gave up to me their services, and the aid of their boats and crews.

I duly represented the conduct of the Governor to the authorities at Keneh, and, after some difficulty, procured his dismissal; he was, however, I learned, reinstated as soon as I had left Egypt. But this spring his extortions on travellers led to fresh complaints being preferred against him, and his patron having ceased to be Governor of the province, by this time I trust he has been replaced by a better man.

I write at a distance from journals and papers, but this terrible experience has left too deep a mark on my mind to be readily effaced; my remembrance of each circumstance is fresh and vivid. The grave lies a few yards out of the track leading from the shore at Asouan to the famous granite quarries; and should this account meet the eyes of any of your readers on the Nile, it will add a new interest to the associations brought up to the mind by the sight of the crowded array of tombs, and some friendly hand may be interposed to preserve from desecration or decay this memorial of one of no common promise, and who has

left friends in all who have had the opportunity of knowing his worth. At the time of his death he was twenty-seven years of age.

The view before passing the great cataract is very wild and desolate. The roaring of so many rapids, the low islands of reddish granite, the terrible wilderness which has covered the hills beyond, are very impressive, a few sunt trees and palms scarcely affording any relief to the appalling desolateness of the scene.

We landed and climbed to a height on the rocks which commanded the cataract. A very thick rope and two small ones were fastened to the bows of the boat, and above a hundred men were employed to drag it. There were nearly as many spectators, chiefly consisting of boys, with shells, coins, arms, and young crocodiles for sale. The clamour was terrible, but when the time came for action there was silence. A man with a ragged flag gave the signal, and a long pull and a strong pull, in less than half an hour, carried us through, thanks to a strong wind, which had been useful all the day.

Philæ, and its beautiful temples, soon came in sight, surrounded with picturesque rocks; but our enjoyment of the view was almost destroyed by the awful clamour of the Nubians, quarrelling for their share of the spoil, and begging for additional backsheesh. It was a perfect pandemonium; and we were

delighted to land them all at their village, and escape to the island of Philæ.

If travellers will only be firm, and refuse to leave Asouan unless the wind is strong and favourable, they need not have any greater difficulty in passing the cataract than I have described; and as there is no danger, either ascending or descending, nobody ever thinks of taking any precautions for themselves or luggage; but the last time I passed the cataract I had to endure, for five days, a worse pandemonium than I have described.

An English gentleman had made a considerable wager with another that he would arrive first at the second cataract, and, as he came to Asouan after me, he could not, according to the law of the cataract, pass over before me. Anxious to win his wager, without saying a word to me, by bribes, and threats that he would return to Cairo, he induced the réïs to take us across without a wind. I had no suspicion that the réïs was not using his own discretion, and acting as was usual, or I should have readily waved my right of precedence. He had friends in another boat, and it was a picturesque sight to see three gay dahabéeahs amongst the rocks at once; but, as the number of men was greatly increased, the noise was atrocious, and a repetition of it for five days together upset my nerves, and I was very ill for a week afterwards at Philæ. This misfortune proved, however,

one fact, that the cataract can be passed without the slightest wind.

We moored in a quiet spot at Philæ, well called the beautiful, a little to the south of the Roman ruins of an ancient gateway, enjoying the exquisite views of the wavy granite hills on our left, with villages and groves of palm-trees below them; and on our right a bank planted with these beautiful trees, partly screening the remains of the ancient piers, the propyla of the great temple of Isis, and the picturesque hypæthral temple, with its elegant columns. These two latter buildings are the most interesting of the ruins of Philæ. The other fragments of temples are merely deserving attention for their inscriptions; but as all the ruins, with but one exception, are of Ptolemaic or Roman epochs, the architecture does not possess the elegant simplicity of the Pharaonic age, nor do the sculptures and the hieroglyphics present the same beautiful execution. No one, however, can see these temples without the greatest admiration, and no ruins in the valley of the Nile can boast of such accessories —rocks, wood, and water—to enhance their effect. The Barabras, to protect a few yards of cultivated land, have made the old and shortest path to the great propyla, passing a little to the north of the hypæthral court, scarcely accessible.

The best path leads to the Roman gateway, which, though smaller, is, in its architecture, not unlike

that of Drusus in Rome. The arches at the side entrances remain—the centre one has fallen.

A few minutes' walk over vast mounds of brick ruins leads to the back of the principal temple. These brick ruins are, probably, all Christian, and amongst them are the remains of a portion of the apse of a church built of the stones of an ancient temple, many having sculptures on them.

All the back part of the great temple is covered with sculpture representing Augustus making offerings to the divinities, chiefly to Isis, but frequently to Horus and Osiris, attended by Isis. The view from this part of the temple is very lovely; the river from there having the appearance of two small lakes surrounded with wild, dark, barren granite rocks, with graceful palms in the foreground, and in the distance a low line of hills, covered with yellow sand, forming a singularly striking contrast of colour. Continuing our circuit of the temple, we observed the king sacrificing a group of prisoners to Isis.

Few views in the world can rival the one from this, the west side of the great temple. There may be finer granite rocks in other lands, but where will you find them equally bold and picturesque in their form? Rhomboidal masses, piled one upon another, some of them looking as if they only wanted a wind strong enough to hurl them into the river, combined with palm and acacia trees; the narrow river, winding

beautifully round the rocky islands, and the distant range of hills covered with yellow sand, the margin of that desert of thousands of miles in extent, of which we know so little. To the right are three picturesque columnar rocks covered with tablets of hieroglyphics; and to the left the island of Biggeh, with its quay, verdant banks, groups of palms, and remains of a temple in the village. The foreground to this unequalled view consists of masses of ruins, columns with elegant Ptolemaic capitals, and beautiful palms.

Resisting the temptation to pass through the door which leads into the great temple, and passing the side of a small peripteral temple, the exterior of which is decorated with elegant columns, and the remains of a building decorated with sculpture, supposed to refer to the inundation of the Nile, we very soon came to the front of the grand propyla. The architectural view from there is very striking. The corridor on the west side formed of columns, thirty of which are still standing, extends to the extremity of the island. The last few decorated with the head of Athor, and bearing the name of Pharaoh Nectanebo, the only king of the thirtieth dynasty, formed a small temple dedicated to that divinity.

Opposite to this little temple was a similar one, the foundations of which are still standing. There are only sixteen columns remaining, and many unfinished, on the east side of this grand approach to the prin-

cipal temple; but there are traces of buildings and temples which no doubt formerly intersected the eastern corridor. At the southern end there has evidently been a considerable temple, of which two large walls remain, covered with Roman sculptures. At the southern extremity of the court were two small obelisks—one is in England, the other is still standing.

The view beyond them of the river winding between verdant banks, and hills beyond the rocks to the right, very bold in their form, is exceedingly beautiful. The most characteristic feature of the temples of Philæ, and which certainly detracts greatly from their effect, is their excessive and unusual irregularity, jumbled together as if these architectural treasures had been scattered from a bag without any symmetry, and almost without any relation to each other. The front of the east corridor is in a line with the doorway of the great propyla. Even after passing the great propyla the irregularity of the first court must strike every one, injuring as it does the effect of the beautiful architecture and the rich sculpture.

The grand court formed by the corridors, I have described, leads irregularly, as I have stated, to the great propyla, which are richly decorated with sculpture representing Ptolemy Euergetes making offerings to Isis, Horus, and Osiris, and a group of the king sacrificing prisoners. The sculpture is in very deep intaglio, and, from its colossal size,

is very imposing, and distinctly seen from the river. The pylon leads into an area formed on the right by a corridor of ten columns with elegant capitals, and on the left by a beautiful little temple, the west side of which I described before. The east side of it towards the court is decorated with seven columns, partly enclosed with screens; and the little portico is adorned with two columns, all having elegant capitals, with the head of Isis above them.

On the left of the western small doorway of the great propyla, fronting and leading to this little temple of Isis, is a line of representations of the goddess Athor, with tambourines in their hands, approaching the king, and below six figures of the Spirits, three with jackals' heads, and three with hawks'. The sculpture inside this little temple is very interesting.

At the end of the last of the three rooms of which it consists, is sculptured a hawk, emblematical of Horus; and his birth is represented beneath by Isis sitting on her heels, with the infant god on her knees. Amun Ra presides over the nativity, and Thoth is an important divinity in this little temple. Long inscriptions of hieroglyphics record the adoration of the different divinities to Horus, the son of Osiris and Isis, and Ptolemy Physcon is seen worshipping Pthah and other gods.

Every part of the first area is enriched with sculpture and hieroglyphic inscriptions. On the screens

of the little temple of Isis, fronting this court, Hor-Hat and Horus are represented pouring emblems of life and purity over the king; and beneath a figure of Ptolemy is a large tablet of hieroglyphics containing the name of Euergetes II. on the natural granite rock on which one of the next propyla is built. These propyla lead to the most beautiful Ptolemaic portico on the Nile. (See frontispiece.) The colouring on the roof, capitals, and sculpture, though not so fresh as I recollect it nearly thirty years ago, is still most interesting. On the roof are winged Eileithyias, and white stars on a blue ground.

The border of hieroglyphics, and especially the sacred boats of the Sun, over the side avenues, and the subjects relating to the mysteries of the dead, under the architraves, are very curious. The perfect preservation of the roof shows us admirably how the portico was left uncovered to half its length, but there are holes in the cornice to which, no doubt, coverings were attached when required. The greens and blues on the various-shaped capitals convey an idea of coolness which is very refreshing in this hot climate. This portico leads to three other rooms, with spacious doorways, gradually diminishing in size; and there are also side rooms.

It is requisite to have a candle to see the sculpture of the sanctuary. A portion has been washed, representing Isis nursing Horus, though rather a big

child, being nearly the size of a man. It is to be regretted that more of the sculpture has not been cleaned, but the king may be distinguished making offerings to Pthah, Thoth, Tafne, and Kneph. The sculpture of this fine temple is not merely injured by dirt, but the figures, within reach of the destroyers, are picked and defaced to an extent that detracts greatly from the beauty of the temple.

Out of the corridor, next to the portico, is a flight of stairs which leads to the roof, where there is a small room containing mysterious sculpture relating to the death and funeral rites of Osiris. "By him who sleeps in Philæ," was the oath of the old Egyptians. There are representations or symbols of most of the gods and goddesses worshipped in Egypt in the time of the Romans, when these sculptures were executed, especially of those connected with the mysteries of Amenti. Nephthys weeping at the head, and Isis at the feet of the body of Osiris, form the most remarkable group.

When on the roof, the panoramic view from there, especially from the great propyla, should be seen. There are various names on this great temple, but the finest parts of it were built by the Ptolemies, and the Cæsars completed and made additions to it. A gateway, richly ornamented with sculpture representing the king making offerings to Osiris, Isis, and Horus, still retaining its colour, led from the grand propyla to the hypæthral building; and on the east, also,

of the great temple is a small but rather elegant portico of a temple of Athor, decorated with two Ptolemaic columns. The interior and most of the exterior of this portico is covered with sculpture, and it led through other rooms to the terrace on the river.

The beautiful effect of the unusually lofty columns of the hypæthral building, with the cloudless and deep blue sky of Nubia, will make the artist regret that so many of the porticoes and halls of Egypt are covered with roofs which, however richly sculptured, do not possess the brilliant colouring which formerly made them so attractive. This court, with its terrace before it, from its fine situation above the river, and its unusual height, is most imposing at a distance; as indeed are all the temples, and also the walls surrounding the island, of which considerable remains exist. There are only two tablets of sculptures in the hypæthral court; one represents Trajan making offerings to Isis and Thoth, and the other libations to Osiris and Isis.

In the island of Biggeh, west of Philæ, is a small unimportant temple of Euergetes I., but it is seen sufficiently well from Philæ. The arch, which is so conspicuous in the distance, is of the time of the Christians.

It is impossible to conclude a description of Philæ, the beautiful, without expressing a hope that a millionaire will, some day, obtain an order from the

Pasha to clear away all the brick ruins, now so difficult to scramble over, and make the whole island, uninhabited and almost uncultivated as it is, into a garden. When his finances are improved, perhaps, Ismail Pasha himself will undertake this great work. Philæ, with its one hundred and twenty-two columns still standing, would then be a perfect paradise; for, even now, there is no place in the valley of the Nile more enjoyable. It is delightful sailing, in the sunset, among the rocky islands; and the views of the island, in the distance, are most beautiful.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Temple of Dabod—Picturesque Ruins of an Arab Castle—The Island of Morgose—Hypæthral Court of the Temple of Gertassee—Island of Bab-el-Kalabshee—The Temple of Kalabshee—The Pylon of Dakkeh—Little Temple of Bayt el Wellee, the House of the Saint—The Temple of Dendoor—Gerf Hossayn—The Temple of Dakkeh—Ruins of El Madeah—Nubian Method of crossing Rivers—The Temple of Sabooa—Village of Karango—Korosko—The Starting Place for Caravans crossing the Great Nubian Desert—Contrary Wind—A Disagreeable Path for our Men.

With a fresh breeze we left Philæ, and arrived at the temple of Dabod, wildly situated beneath a line of sand-covered hills, with the narrowest possible slip of cultivated land on the bank, sprinkled with a few palms; and on the opposite side is a dark chain of rocks. There are the remains of a pier on the river, and seven minutes' walk from there brought us to the first of the three little pylons which lead to this temple. They are all three without sculpture, and unfinished, only the second being decorated with the usual winged globe. So many pylons to such an un-

important temple is merely an affected imitation of the great temples of Thebes. Two of the columns which, with screens, formed the front of the portico, are standing, one with a Ptolemaic capital, and the other unfinished. The sculpture is in bad style. This portico leads to three rooms. The first only containing sculpture, representing an Ethiopian king, Ashar Amun, making offerings to Osiris, Isis, Horus, and Kneph. The only tablet of the least interest is on the eastern wall, representing Horus and Thoth pouring emblems of life and purity over Tiberius. The wall which enclosed this temple is most rudely constructed. The view from the ruins towards the south, of the palm groves, the river, the verdant eastern bank, and distant hills, is pretty.

In an hour afterwards we passed the picturesque brick ruins of an Arab castle, among which I observed a circular arch. Our Nubian pilot had no other name for it but Coffra, which means ancient. In half an hour afterwards we passed a wall projecting into the river.

The granite hills and rocks have below them picturesque acacias, and some fine dom trees, mingled with palms. Shortly afterwards we passed the rocky island of Morgose, on which were crude brick Arab ruins, containing arches. Afterwards the hills became tamer, especially on the western bank, as the granite range passes to sandstone. But the eastern

chain is more broken, and the groups of palms, and the slips of cultivated land, apparently not more than a hundred paces wide, sloping to the river, have, from their vivid greenness, a pleasing effect, contrasted with the sand-hills beyond.

The hypæthral court of the temple of Gertassee is wildly and picturesquely situated on one of these hills. It contains no sculpture, and is seen very well from the river, as there are no walls or buildings round the ruin to destroy the effect of four columns, connected with screens, with Ptolemaic capitals, sustaining long architraves; and two columns with Isis-headed capitals, with shrines over them, with the uræus in it.

At the village, which is at some distance from the temple, is one of those large stone enclosures with a stone gateway, which will often be observed in Nubia; perhaps they were for the troops, or perhaps for cattle, as Mohammed Ali made them in similar form for the droves he received from Ethiopia.

North of this ruin is a solitary column, the only remains of another temple.

Approaching Tafa, the sandstone hills on both sides of the Nile become picturesque, being generally perpendicular and boldly broken, and the palms and acacias beneath them, and the green slip of cultivated land, might well induce the Romans to select it as a residence.

The south temple consists of a very small room ornamented with two columns, with pretty Ptolemaic capitals, and no sculpture; but the front part being destroyed, the ruin is picturesque, combined with a couple of palms, and bold rocks on both sides of the river, and no Arab huts to spoil its effect. This portico leads into a small unfinished sanctuary. The other little temple is, unfortunately, situated in the village, and occupied by a Nubian family. It is very perfect, and without sculpture, and never consisted of more than one room, in which are four columns, with Ptolemaic capitals, besides the two which decorate the front. The temple being so little injured, it is necessary to enter it to see the columns inside, and great was the clamour for backsheesh for this infringement of their privity. There are a great number of the stone enclosures at Tafa, but generally of a small size.

Soon after we came to granite rocks on both sides of the river, as picturesque as at Philæ, for the short time they last. Some of them rise even more boldly from the river than at the first cataract. On one of the rocks are the crude brick remains of an ancient town and castle, commanding the entrance of the granite gorge. In a few minutes afterwards we came in sight of an island called Bab-el-Kalabshee, covered with very extensive crude brick ruins, containing towers of considerable strength; and immediately

afterwards we passed another island, with similar remains, and many small islands threatening to impede our course and creating rapids.

The hills now became tamer, but the scenery is very beautiful, enhanced by the winding of the river, forming a succession and variety of views. There are, indeed, few sails more beautiful on any river than the short one between Tafa and Kalabshee. The black basalt islands glittering in the sun, and, when the granite rocks are succeeded by sand or gritstone, the latter here even surpass the former in the height of the hills, and in their bold perpendicular picturesque forms. The bases of some of the islands were of granite, with sandstone in the centre, and on the summit. This variety of colour—the almost black granite and yellow sandstone rocks, mingled with a little green of palms and acacias, and a few cultivated patches—enhances greatly the scenery of the Bab-el-Kalabshee. Near Kalabshee the hills are tamer, but the recollection of such a first day's experience of the Nile in Nubia, must be to all most delightful.

The deep loneliness of the river, and also of its banks, is most remarkable. Not a boat have we seen this day, nor peasants, nor cattle on the shore, except occasionally an Arab traveller, with his well-laden donkey. We saw near the palm-trees crude brick villages, scarcely distinguishable from their similarity of colour from

the hills behind them; but they appeared as deserted as the more ancient ruined towns I have mentioned—so different from the scenery in Lower Egypt, where the Nile is animated by all kinds of boats, and the villages swarming with a redundant population. There is something, also, in the air of Nubia in the winter season, which is very delightful, mild, and bracing, at all times perfectly dry, and, though warm, there is an elasticity in it which, joined to the excitement of mastering, with a fresh breeze, the strong current, is most enjoyable.

The temple of Kalabshee, founded by Augustus, and completed by his successors, is one of those great edifices which the Romans constructed in deference to the religion of the people under their subjection, of a size and splendour rivalling almost in its architectural pretensions the temples of the ancient Pharaohs, which, however, they never equalled in the elegance of style, or in the beauty of the decorations and sculpture.

A fine terrace on the river, and protected from it by a wall, is still well preserved; and also a broad stone causeway, and a flight of steps leading to the great propyla, now diminished in height into a little above the entrance of the first court, which had a corridor on each side, ornamented with columns, of which only one remains. The view on entering this court is very striking, of the extraordinary accumulation

of immense masses of stone and beautiful capitals, which actually fill every part of it, and are difficult to climb over; while opposite to you is the imposing façade of what must have been a beautiful portico. The front is ornamented with four columns, nearly concealed to half their height by elegant screens, decorated with the winged globe, and above the cornices the uræus ornament.

The capitals of the columns, now much injured, are Ptolemaic, and very beautiful. The cornice of the façade is perfect, and ornamented with the winged globe and serpents. There is no sculpture uninjured in the first court, and on the front of the portico, except on the door leading into the interior, and on one of the screens, where Hor-Hat and Thoth are represented pouring libations over a Cæsar before Horus. The interior of the portico was ornamented with eight other columns, of which only two are now standing. The portico leads into a room equally encumbered with vast masses; but which was decorated with eight columns, of which two remain.

There is no sculpture except some very bad in style, on the front of what may have been the original little temple where a Cæsar is represented making offerings to different divinities, especially to Malouli, a son of Isis, the principal god of the temple. There are three rooms beyond, all covered with sculpture, besides several small lateral chambers. One of

these rooms is well worth observing, for the singular preservation of the coloured sculpture, representing Cæsar making offerings to the divinities. The colouring of the head-dresses, chairs, ornaments, offerings, and hieroglyphics, and especially the dresses of the different divinities, may be studied with advantage, and show us what a halo colour gives to very indifferent drawing, and how magnificent Egyptian temples must have been when they combined such gorgeous and yet such well-harmonized colouring, and more graceful forms.

The exterior of this great temple has never been finished, and is not ornamented with sculpture. There are considerable remains of the double walls which enclosed the temple, and of other rooms, one in the rock of little importance, but it is worth the trouble to scramble round the walls to see the vast masses of stone lying about.

The little temple of Kalabshee, or Bayt el Wellee, the house of the saint, as it is called, is excavated in the rock, about half an hour's walk to the north. The architecture of this little temple is very simple; its merit consisting in the extreme elegance of the sculpture, being executed in the reign of Rameses II., and a fine specimen of that, the best period of Egyptian art.

The sculpture of the first court cut into the rock is historical and most interesting, representing that king's victories over Africans and Asiatics, over the

Cush, or Ethiopians, and the Shori, an Eastern people. In the first compartment, on the right on entering, is a very graceful figure of the king, with his battle-axe in his right hand, and in his left his bow and a string of prisoners, the Shori on their knees, while other prisoners with their arms bound are led before him. In the second, the colossal king is taking a fort fortified with two rows of battlements. In the third, the king is in his chariot, overthrowing a numerous host. In the fourth, he is slaying one of the enemy in single combat; and in the last, wearing the head-dress of Amun, of two feathers, he is seated on his throne, receiving a deputation of males and females interceding for mercy.

In the first two tablets of the left side, the king in his chariot, accompanied by his two sons in theirs, is attacking his enemies, the Cush—the horses very spiritedly drawn. In the next long tablet the king is represented on his throne; a prince of Cush and prisoners are before him, and splendid offerings are brought to him as tribute; gold and silver in rings and bags, furniture, skins of wild animals, men with negro features leading lions antelopes, cattle, giraffes, monkeys, &c., and bearing on their shoulders ebony and ivory.

The tablets of hieroglyphics are beautifully executed; and when not injured, they appear (after visiting the Roman temples) the finest engravings.

The king is called in them "conqueror of the nine bows" (the Libyans), and the perverse race of the Cush, and said to have tamed the Tahennu, and "put under the soles of his feet the Shori" (both these people subdued before by Sethi I.)

Three doors lead from this once beautiful area into a room excavated in the rock, in which are two short columns, with circular bases and square slabs for capitals, and fluted, except four rows, which are left flat for the admirably executed hieroglyphics. On the left side Rameses II. is represented sacrificing prisoners, and on each side the door leading into the sanctuary there are beautiful tablets, retaining much colour, representing the king making offerings of ointment, and an image of truth, to Amun Ra, who, with Kneph and Anouke, were the divinities of the temple. On each side are niches containing three deities, much defaced.

In the little sanctuary there is a similar niche, but the deities appear to have been taken away. The king in the sanctuary is represented making offerings to Amun Ra, Kneph, and Anouke.

Kalabshee, with its temples, quarries, and groves of palms, doms, and sycamore trees, offers many inducements to the traveller to linger, but the inhabitants are a sad rough set. They besieged my boat, and endeavoured by force to compel my dragoman to give extortionate prices for their sheep and eggs.

We had a breeze in the night, which brought us within the tropic to the temple of Dendoor.

The terrace on the river before these remains is in good preservation. The temple built by Augustus exhibits some taste in the architecture, but the sculpture is very bad. The proportions of the small pylon which leads to it are good. The sculpture represents the Emperor making offerings to Osiris, Isis, and other gods. The very small portico is decorated with two columns, with Ptolemaic capitals, and leads to two small unfinished rooms. The sculpture of the interior of the portico represents the emperor making offerings to Osiris, Isis, Harpocrates, Horus, and Tafne, and below are divinities of the Nile carrying geese and water-plants. The exterior of the temple is also decorated with sculpture. The view from this ruin is very Nubian; barren sand-hills, villages, unshaded by trees, of the same colour as the rocks, and scarcely distinguishable, and the narrow river, with a few palms on its verdant banks.

With a fresh breeze we soon arrived at Gerf Hossayn, the ancient Tutzis. The area of this temple, the only part that is not excavated in the rock, is picturesque. Two columns, one with the bud-shaped and the other the papyrus-shaped capital, are all that remain of the four that decorated the entrance; and of the Osiride, colossal figures which adorned the eight square pillars, only two re-

tain their heads. On each side of this court are fragments of three statues, cut in *alto-relievo* in the rock.

Four masses of architraves, bearing the names and titles of Rameses II., are still supported by the pillars, and form a picturesque foreground to the Arab village, with its palms and monotonous hills, and the old town of Mereeh, or Sabagoora, with its thick enclosing walls running up apparently to a fort, and the river fringed on the other side with a brilliantly verdant bank.

The interior of this excavation, measuring one hundred and thirty feet, is interesting more for its appearance of great antiquity than for the merit of the sculpture, which is very bad for the age of Rameses II. The colouring has all decayed, and the interior of the temple has regained the natural white appearance of the rock, with here and there the crust of age and dirt, a few inches of brilliant blues and reds occasionally giving us faint indications of its former brilliancy.

The first hall is lofty, and contains six massive pillars, decorated towards the avenues with Osiride figures, or colossal statues of Rameses II., on pedestals, which are too high, so that the statues have not their usual proportions, and have a stunted appearance. The black crust of time has accumulated so over the faces that they are scarcely dis-

tinguishable, and will claim little admiration, more especially if seen after Aboo-Simbel. On each side of this hall are four niches containing statues of the king and queen and divinities, also badly executed.

The sculpture on the walls representing the king making offerings to the divinities, chiefly Pthah and Re, is in better style. This hall leads through a room, with four square pillars, to a sanctuary where there are three divinities, Pthah Sokaris, Pthah and Athor, with the king seated behind an altar, and on the walls of the sanctuary are sacred arks.

The keenness of the Nubians for money is a positive nuisance. When they found me out at the temple, my enjoyment of it was quite destroyed. Above thirty men and naked boys followed me to my boat, screaming and begging for backsheesh, some few offering spears and shields for sale.

Leaving these ruins, the views are uninteresting—low hills on both sides of the river, those on the west side being chiefly covered with sand. The strip of cultivated land on the bank is very narrow, and the villages, with their groves of palms, are more rare. The propyla of Dakkeh look imposing from the river. Opposite are the crude brick remains of a strong castle, with immensely thick walls and towers, worth visiting by those who care for fortifications.

The architecture of the little temple of Dakkeh, the ancient Pselcis, is interesting. The propyla are

unusually perfect, and the flatness of the surrounding country adds to their effect. They had a court before them, of which there are considerable traces. The pylon leads to a little portico, the front of which is decorated with two columns, with Ptolemaic capitals, partly joined with screens. This portico is covered with sculpture, retaining much colour, and the Eileithyias on the roof are more distinguishable than usual.

Euergetes and Cleopatra are represented making offerings; and as no Ptolemaic remains are found south of this place, there is every reason to suppose that the empire of the Ptolemies never extended beyond this place and Ibreem.

The portico leads through a corridor to a sanctuary, or what was evidently the original temple, founded by the Ethiopian king, Ergamun, of the time of the Ptolemies. The sculpture, though injured, is in rather better style, and represents the Ethiopian king making offerings to Thoth Hermes Trismegistus, the chief god of the temple, Kneph, Osiris, Isis, &c. In the lateral chambers there is some curious sculpture, but the most interesting, from having been lately cleaned, is in the last room but one, which must be approached from outside, a stone blocking the way. It represents Ergamun making offerings to Isis and Harpocrates, with his finger to his lip.

The cornice on both sides of this sanctuary, or little temple, retains traces of colour. On the back of the sanctuary a Cæsar is offering incense to Horus, and addressing Isis and that god; and over the doorway the spirits are worshipping the winged Hor-Hat.

Here, again, I was beset by crowds of ragged Nubians, screaming for backsheesh, and offering for sale Roman lamps, crocodiles, and even pebbles that they picked up from the ground before my face, believing the English will buy anything.

The ruins of the castle I have mentioned are seen well from the temple, but the scenery is flat, and has not the usual attractions of the views in Nubia. The village of Dakkeh is very uninteresting; the large circular mud vases, almost as high as the houses, are the granaries of the Nubian peasants.

A pleasant breeze kindly took us rapidly through a flat uninteresting country, with isolated pyramidal hills in the distance. Two hours afterwards we passed the unimportant ruins of the temple of Oofideena, the ancient Hierasycaminon, situated, as usual, on the desert, above the cultivated strip of land. There are fourteen columns, but rude and unfinished; and there is a staircase leading to the top of the ruin.

Opposite to it is a solitary hill, a fine situation for a castle, of which there appeared to be some remains. We soon passed the crude brick ruins of an ancient town, and afterwards similar remains on the

western bank, wildly situated on perpendicular rhomboidal masses of rock, at a little distance from the ruins of a castle called El Madeah. As there never could have been much greater extent of cultivated land than the narrow slips now existing, between the hills and the river, these castles must have been erected as the residences of those warlike tribes who, in ancient times, struggled for the mastery of this wild district.

Before arriving at Sabooa the sand-hills are more broken in their surface, and often rather picturesque. The western bank is very tame, and neither side can boast of many palms. We observed, this evening, a Nubian crossing the river on a log of wood, with the assistance of an inflated water-skin, his clothes and stick fastened on the top of his head.

We arrived, in the evening, at the temple of Sabooa, having sailed against the stream twenty-eight miles in eight hours, averaging three and a half miles an hour; and in two days we had accomplished eighty-five miles, allowing for a slight repose at night; but the impression is that we are sailing far quicker, the current being so very strong.

The temple of Sabooa, or the Lions, as it is called from the eight androsphinxes which ornamented the first court, is now almost covered with sand. It is built like all the temples, and, I may say, modern villages, in Nubia, on the edge of the desert, so that not a yard

of arable land may be lost. On the pedestals of the sphinxes are prisoners, but none of them are now perfect. The heads of two sphinxes, just appearing above the sand, have traces of their faces, and a third has only the ear uncovered. Behind two statues, much defaced, are the names and titles of Rameses II., who built the temple. On the badly-built pylon this avenue leads to, the same king is making offerings to Amun, and I think Ré, but the hieroglyphics are defaced. A colossal statue lies at the door of the pylon, which leads into a small court ornamented with Osiride columns, now, like every part of this temple, covered with sand, but the name of Rameses is distinguishable in the adytum excavated in the rock, the side walls of which are ornamented with the sacred arks of Amun and Ré.

The view from the temple of the river, and the broken picturesque hills on the opposite side, is interesting. If some of the ruins in Nubia be considered scarcely worth the trouble of visiting, the views will generally compensate the traveller. This district is called the Wady el Arab, as the natives speak Arabic, though above they speak the Nooba language, and below, the Kensee, which is again spoken by the Kenoos, above the second cataract.

We passed Malkeh with the slightest breeze. The views were tame and uninteresting; the low sand-hills on our left, blackened by a tropical sun,

those at the west side covered with deep-yellow sand, which drifts over them with the prevailing westerly winds from the desert they screen. In some places there is no cultivated land, and never more than a very narrow strip—scarcely a village to be seen—the pale olive-coloured thorny sehal lining the banks, instead of the graceful palms. The bleakest sierras of Spain seldom present such a picture of solitude as this wild district, with a glorious river—in Egypt so fructifying—rolling through its desolate wastes.

Soon after leaving Malkeh the eastern hills become more picturesque, rising perpendicularly from the river, with, generally, a few sehals at their base, and occasionally small patches of land cultivated by the industrious Nubians.

On the western bank the village of Karango, with its grove of palms, appeared like an oasis amidst this desert scenery. At noon we passed Korosko, where, for the first time in Nubia, we observed boats moored at the bank of the river, being the starting place for the caravans which cross the Great Nubian Desert for the south; and here, I recollect, nearly thirty years ago, we filled our water-skins for our eight days' march across the wilderness to Aboo Hammed.*

The river here winds nearly N.N.W., and the breeze which had hitherto been so favourable was now contrary to us. Our men dragged us along the left

* See my "Travels in Ethiopia."

bank, which is planted with acacias, and above them a continuous grove of palm-trees. The right side appeared more desolate, but the rocks in the river soon stopped us for the night. In the morning we fortunately had a little wind, which enabled us to cross to the right side, and we tracked along a thorny bank, a disagreeable path for our poor men with their naked feet. Here and there, there were a few yards of cultivated land, but generally a fringe of acacias separated the Nile from the barren desert. On our left there was more cultivation, and an unbroken line of palms and acacias.

We bought a small sheep for seven shillings and sixpence, which is dear compared with Egypt, but I would almost have preferred paying double the sum, to have avoided the screaming incidental to the bargain. Another Arab wanted a guinea for a sheep the same size, and would not take less; formerly I used to buy them in Nubia for eighteen pence and two shillings each.

CHAPTER XV.

The Temple of Amada—Derr, the Capital of Nubia—The Temple of Derr—Scenes on the Banks of the River—Wedding Gaieties in Nubia—Fortress of Ibreem—Great Temple of Aboo-Simbel—Various Sculptures—Battle-Scenes—The Portico—The Sanctuary—The small Temple of Aboo-Simbel—Statues of Rameses II.—Small Temple used as a Fortress—Various Sculptures representing Rameses II. and his Queen—Temple at Ferayg—Deboreh—Careful Cultivation on the Bank of the River—A Resource of the Poor Nubians—Brick Enclosures for Cattle in the Nubian Desert—Ruins of a Temple and Ancient Chapels—View of the Second Cataract—Magical Effect—Wadee Halfeh—Condition of the Peasantry—Morning and Evening Temperature in Nubia—Violent Gales of Wind—Advice to Invalids—Voyage from Wadee Halfeh to Cairo—Visit to a Caravan with Prisoners—Black Regiments in the Egyptian Service—Slave Traffic—Discovery of the Source of the Nile.

With a slight favourable breeze, we came to Hassaia, and the little temple of Amada, situated on the yellow desert, about one hundred and sixty paces from the river, and almost buried in the sand, with a bank of acacias, but no cultivated land below it, and a line of wavy, broken, barren hills behind. The little temple

of Amada would not, perhaps, by some travellers be considered worth visiting for its architecture; but it certainly is for the remains of colour on the sculpture, which is of the best period and style of Egyptian art. The ruin consists of a portico supported by twelve square and four polygonal columns, with plain slabs for capitals, the type of the Doric column. Part of the roof is remaining. This portico leads into a corridor, from which three doors lead into the sanctuary, and four lateral chambers, uninjured, but unfortunately encumbered with sand.

The coloured sculpture, thanks to the Christians who had covered it with plaster, is admirably preserved. On the left side, on entering the sanctuary, is Re with a vase, containing the emblems of life, stability, and purity, leading King Amunoph II. to the god Amun Ra; and on the opposite side the subject is nearly the same, but the divinities have changed places, and the king is Thothmes III. At the end is a sacred ark, and Thothmes making offerings to the same divinities seated in it; and there is a long tablet of hieroglyphics below. Faded as these figures are now from what I recollect them, they still give an excellent idea of the effect of Egyptian sculpture when coloured.

The view is interesting of the temple, surrounded with the yellow desert, bounded by the horizon, and the river fringed with fine mimosas, now loaded with

their sweet-scented yellow flowers ; and on its verdant bank on the other side, a narrow forest of palms, extending as far as the eye can see, and beyond them the wilderness bounded by a picturesquely broken ridge of sand-hills. Leaving Amada, the groves of palms and acacias diminish in number towards the extremity of the low line of hills, which reach to the river, south of Derr.

Derr, the capital of Nubia, with its large government house, appears quite a metropolis compared with the small Nubian villages. It is of great extent, as the houses are often detached, and larger than in Egypt, the streets wider, and the town has a very flourishing appearance, thanks to its immense lucrative groves of dates.

The temple of Derr is partly excavated in the ridge of rocks behind the village, and though the work of Rameses II., whose temples at Thebes and Aboo-Simbel are the wonders of the Nile, the architecture and sculpture of this edifice, as of Gerf Hossayn, are very inferior. The area before the excavated chambers of the temple was decorated with twelve square pillars, of eight of which, portions, four to five feet high, hewn out of the rock, remain ; and the other four, on which are fragments of Osiride statues, still support an architrave. On both sides of this court are traces of battle-scenes, and the king in his chariot, and again offering prisoners to the god

Re, with a hawk's head. On each side of the doorway leading into the interior are colossal representations of the king, accompanied by a lion, sacrificing prisoners to Amun Ra and Re, and smaller figures of the king making offerings to Thoth and Kneph.

The area leads into a portico excavated in the rock, in which are six pillars with square bases; and this leads into a sanctuary where, at the end, there are traces of statues, and at each side of the sanctuary is a small room. The sculptures of the portico and sanctuary are bold and well executed. The most interesting subject is the king in the Persea-tree receiving the gifts of Re and Pasht on one side, and the mummy-figured god Pthah on the other. There is also a representation of offerings to the ark of Ré, with a sacred shrine, which the kings are supposed to have carried with them in their wars. The proportions are simple, but good, of this little temple; and when perfect it could not have been the least attractive of the temples of the Nile. But now little remains, and the once richly-decorated roof has lost all its splendour. In the same rock is a small tomb not worth visiting, as it contains no sculpture. About thirty children followed me from the village to the temple, and my men had to use their sticks to keep them at a distance.

On our right, on leaving Derr, we had still the desert, but the grandeur of a desert, which consists in

its extent, is here screened by low broken hills, partly covered with sand, and fringed with acacias. Gebel Derr projects boldly into the water, and for three hours we coasted under the picturesquely broken rocks rising perpendicularly from the Nile, the monarch of the scene.

The character of the banks now changed; the left was full of acacias, but almost entirely destitute of cultivated land, except where the industrious Nubians had protected some patches of a few yards in extent. On our right were sehals and extensive groves of palms, broken occasionally by the desert. We observed numerous groups of peasants, some on foot, and others on donkeys, generally respectably dressed; the men in long white robes and turbans, and the women in blue gowns, with their hair elaborately dressed in well-greased ringlets, making their way to a great wedding at Derr. The gaieties on these occasions sometimes last a fortnight—drinking and dancing being the chief amusements. The sun set gloriously in a blaze of light, above which were broken lines as of the brightest gilding, which afterwards changed into a red colour as the horizon assumed a greenish tint.

We were becalmed at night, and in the morning we passed the village of Ibreem. The view was pleasing of groves of palm-trees, and, on both sides of the river, very large acacias. Soon afterwards we

had the desert on both sides, except a few patches of cultivated land on the sloping banks.

Some miles north of Ibreem, and south of an old castle, on the western bank, there is a remarkable deposit of alluvial soil, extending for a considerable distance, which has the appearance of a mud wall, and the summit of it being now on a level with the yellow desert and shrubs, twenty feet high, on the present bank of the river, it is strong evidence that the Nile flowed formerly much higher in this part of Nubia.

Tracking with the least possible wind, we reached the range of rocks on one of which is the fortress of Ibreem, the supposed site of Primis Parva.

The gritstone range is divided by rocky valleys. Descending the river from the south, there appear to be five bold headlands; ascending from the north, only three appear to rise very precipitately from the river, but these form a very picturesque view. At the base of the first are the ruins of a Sheakh's tomb. On the second the crude brick ruins of the town, with its walls and forts, resting in one part on stone foundations, are very imposing, situated on a bold headland rising precipitately, in a triangular form, from the the river. The rocks appear higher from the flatness of the western bank, and the flat monotonous scenery before reaching Ibreem, especially from the south. Anywhere Ibreem would be thought picturesque, and is really entitled to be considered the Ehrenbreitstein

of the Nubian Nile. On the southern end of the rock are several grottoes—four with large doorways.

A little further south, on the same side of the river, there is an isolated hill, admirably situated for fortifications. There appeared to be some portions of Roman masonry on the south side of the hill, but the access to it would be difficult, if the other side is as steep as the one we see from the Nile.

The four grottoes, or small temples, I have mentioned, contain the names of Thothmes I. and III., Amunoph II., and Rameses II., and representations of the divinities, Re, Sate, and Anouke. Not only the Egyptian Pharaohs, but the Ethiopians under Tirhaka and Queen Candace; the Romans, under Petronius, who waged war against the Ethiopian queen; and the Turks, under Sultan Selim, appear to have availed themselves of these strong natural fortifications.

The views were afterwards very uninteresting, often nothing visible but the desert on both sides, fringed with a few low shrubs near the river. The solitude was extreme, not a man to be seen; the crocodiles might well think they had the Nile to themselves, and venture from their deep recesses — I counted four on one small island, but they vanished as we approached them.

With a glorious breeze we approached, in the evening, the celebrated temples of Aboo-Simbel. That

side of the Nile is a perfect desert. The rocks the temples are excavated in are low, almost perpendicular, and flat on their summit, and an overwhelming drift of sand divides the two temples, and is continually blocking up and encroaching on the great one. It is a strange sight to see such mighty monuments on the margin of the wilderness. They are not only most imposing from their great size, but even at a considerable distance the grandeur and beauty of the faces of the great colossi are very impressive, though at a moderate distance their pleasing expression is seen better, even than when close to them.

An inclined plain of sand, difficult to wade through, hides a great part of the front of the great temple of Aboo-Simbel; and as the sand is constantly flowing down from the desert above, the labour of excavators is soon lost. Belzoni and Captains Irby and Mangles, and Mr. Beechey, were the travellers who first cleared out the entrance, and I had the good fortune to see the temple thirty years ago, soon after Mr. Hay had excavated two of the colossi to their bases, exposing interesting tablets of hieroglyphics and a Greek inscription recording the visit of the soldiers sent in pursuit of the army of two hundred and forty thousand men, who, according to Herodotus, in the time of Psammitichus, deserted from Egypt into Ethiopia—the king himself going no farther than Elephantine, where his name, as I have stated in my

account of that island, is recorded in large hieroglyphics on one of the rocks.

The façade of the temple is about one hundred and twenty-one feet wide. At the summit is a row of cynocephali, and from there to the base of the colossi the height is ninety feet. The four immense colossi of Rameses II., seated on thrones which ornament the front, are sixty feet high. The heads of two of them are almost perfect, and the face of another is also in excellent preservation. The legs of one measured, from the knee to the base, nineteen feet six inches, but now the sand has covered this statue to the calf of the leg. On the arms is an oval containing the name of the great Rameses, and on each side and between the legs of the colossi were figures eight feet high, but of these portions of two only are visible between the two eastern colossi. Over the entrance into the portico is a large figure of Re, with a hawk's head and disk, and Rameses II. offering to the god little images of the god of Truth and Justice. The portico, excavated in the rock—fifty-seven feet seven inches long, and fifty-one feet eleven inches broad, and twenty-five feet four inches high—is ornamented with eight square pillars, the sides towards the avenue decorated with Osiride figures, or statues of Rameses II., twenty-two feet four inches high.

The view, thirty years ago, was very imposing, as the light was sufficient, not only to see this splendid

avenue of statues, but also very distinctly through two other rooms, all with doors with beautiful cornices, into the sanctuary, at the end of which are divinities seated before an altar. You forgot you were in excavated rooms, the proportions of the architecture are so admirable; but now the sand, ever flowing in at the door, partly covers the feet of the last colossus, and reaches the elbows of the first, so that there is scarcely light sufficient to distinguish the statues in the sanctuary. The colossi have plain mitres on their heads, little expression in the countenances, but pleasing gravity, well calculated for monumental ornaments.

Some of the figures are now much injured: one wants part of its chest, others part of the arms. The faces of all the eight were in excellent preservation, and the injuries they had then received not so material as to detract from their effect; but now they are sadly changed—the traces of colour are more faint, the second colossal to the right has its aquiline, Rameses II. nose, broken, and not one of the statues on the left side has its nose uninjured.

The ceiling over the grand avenue is decorated with a succession of representations of the goddess Eileithyia, or the winged vultures and feathers. The sculptures of the portico are extremely interesting, but, from the colours being faded, with eight candles

I could not sufficiently distinguish the incidents of the battles depicted.

On the left, on entering, is a fine figure of Amun Ra, before whom the king, with a bow in one hand and a falchion in the other, is on the point of sacrificing prisoners; then the king is represented offering incense to Amun Ra; and there is an interesting tablet of the king in the Persea-tree before Re and Thoth, with his graduated staff. Under these fine figures are more interesting tablets representing the king in his chariot, attended by three other chariots attacking his enemies; the king is then represented killing one of his foes, and trampling on another; and there is a tablet of the king in his chariot driving before him an admirably drawn group of negro prisoners, of the same colour and features as the modern Shilooks, and wearing a cord and charm suspended from their necks, as is now their custom. The king, on foot, is then presenting the prisoners to Amun Ra. On the west side is depicted a tremendous battle, but, from the greater absence of colour, difficult to be made out. The battle was on the banks of a large river, which retains some colour, and is more distinguishable. Chariots and soldiers are in rank and file; chariots meeting chariots, horses and men upset.

"Horse trod by horse lay foaming on the plain,
From the dry fields thick clouds of dust arise,
Shade the black host and intercept the skies;
The brass-hoofed steeds tumultuous plunge and bound,

And the thick thunder beats the labouring ground;
The horses fly, the chariot smokes along,
Clouds from their nostrils the fierce coursers blow."*

The king is attacking a fort; the architecture is worth observing, consisting as it were of two towers, one on the other, the roof of the top one projecting so as to form for the besieged two places of defence. The entrance to the tower is by a small doorway. The besieged have their hair bound with a yellow band. Many of them have their arms extended imploring mercy, but the unerring shaft from the bow of Rameses is destroying them. One is falling from the battlements, two are on their knees imploring mercy, and others are holding out flags as a sign of submission; but the bow of Rameses is bent to destroy them. The place is called the fortress of Atsh, and the campaign is supposed to be against the Kheta, or the Hittites, the ancient inhabitants of Canaan. The war on the other side is clearly against an African people.

This portico leads through a hall twenty-six feet long and thirty-eight feet wide, ornamented with four square pillars, and a corridor nine feet five inches long and thirty-eight feet broad, into a sanctuary, twenty-three feet seven inches long, and twelve feet three inches broad; at the end of which are the injured statues of Re, Amun, Pthah, and the king, seated before an altar, and on the walls are sacred

* The Iliad.

arks, with shrines. On each side of the sanctuary are lateral chambers; and there are two, forty and forty-nine feet broad, leading out of the grand portico, with benches round them, but they are only partly finished, the sculptures representing the king making offerings to the divinities, chiefly Re.

The small temple of Aboo-Simbel would excite great admiration, if, moored in our boat opposite it, we did not compare the sculpture with the single colossal head there visible of the great temple; as none of the six colossal statues which, in *alto-relievo*, adorn the front of this temple, at all rival the beautiful expression of the great statues of Rameses. This ruin is, however, very imposing, though we can scarcely judge of its effect when perfect, as there is not one of the colossi that has not its nose defaced. This destruction of noses at this temple and in the grand portico of the great temple must have been intentional. The unevenness of the gritstone rock above, on each side and in front of the temple, the long grass and a few low shrubs, increase its picturesque effect.

This temple is eighty-five feet wide and thirty-five feet high. Six deep recesses are cut in the smooth rock, which on each side the colossi is left as buttresses, ornamented with such deep hieroglyphics that a sailor had no difficulty in using them as a ladder. Three of the statues are of Rameses II.,

with the plain mitre for head-dress, and two of his queen, Nofri Ari, with the head-dress of Athor, the globe, horns, and two feathers, and the sixth of Athor, to whom the queen dedicates the temple. Athor is called in the inscriptions the Lady of the land of Aboshek, the ancient name of the place.

The colossi are standing, and had on each side their legs smaller statues of the royal children, of which only one, much defaced, and slight fragments of others, remain; some of these appear to have been taken away. There is a line of hieroglyphics at the top of the temple, now much injured. The entrance in a buttress more than double the width of the other buttresses separating the statues, is very small, and made the excavation a strong place of refuge in one of those little wars formerly so common in this wild country. The portico, thirty-four feet nine inches long, and thirty-five feet nine inches broad, but deficient in height, and not to be compared to the portico of the great temple, was sustained by six square pillars, the sides of which, towards the avenue, were decorated with heads of Athor, with shrines on her head, in low relief.

The portico leads through a transverse corridor to two unfinished lateral chambers and the sanctuary, at the end of which, and visible from the entrance of the temple, are fragments of the cow, the emblem of Athor. The style of the sculpture in this excavation

is very good, the temperature not unpleasantly warm, and the light in the portico sufficient, though candles are required for the corridor. The figures fronting the light on the columns of the portico are worth observing. On the right are seen the queen, with a sistrum, and the king offering incense to Kneph. On the left the queen, with a sistrum, and again with water-plants and Thoth.

The sculpture on the walls of the portico is also very good. On the right, on entering, the king, followed by his queen, and having a bow in one hand and a falchion in the other, is on the point of sacrificing a prisoner to Re. On the side wall the king is represented making offerings to Pthah, Kneph, Athor, and Re, in four tablets. The sculpture on the left, on entering, begins with a similar sacrifice of a prisoner, but the god is Amun Ra. The four side tablets represent the king addressing Athor and Anubis; Horus, with the graduated staff, blessing the king; the queen making offerings to Anouke, and again to Amun Ra.

On one side of the doorway leading to the sanctuary, the queen is offering water-plants to Maut, and on the other side to Athor. In the corridor Maut and Athor are represented blessing the queen, and over the doors of the lateral chambers of the sanctuary are arks, with the sacred cow, the emblems of Athor. In the sanctuary the king is making offer-

ings to Amun Ra. As there are no remains of a city, Rosellini justly concludes that these temples were erected by Rameses to record the victories in Africa and Asia, depicted on the walls.

At Ferayg, opposite Aboo-Simbel, there are the remains of a small excavated unimportant temple, which I did not visit. Travellers are fortunate if they have a breeze to take them from Aboo-Simbel to Wadee Halfeh, a distance of forty miles, as the views are most uninteresting; the desert generally reaching the Nile on our right, and very little cultivated land on the east bank. Soon afterwards what cultivated land the country can boast of was on our right only.

On the top of a hill near Deboreh there is an old castle, consisting of a large enclosure with a single entrance and towers. The yellow sand of the desert surrounds it; a few very small patches of cultivated land, visible only near the river, the bank being generally covered with low shrubs. We observed a solitary traveller journeying over the desert on his donkey, but so far from being a relief, this little moving speck on its surface only made the wilderness appear more lonely. Deboreh on our left, with its groves, verdant bank, and higher hills in the distance, is almost like an oasis in this desolate region. The palm and dom trees are splendid, and the acacias very large. The unusually wide bank was carefully cultivated, and brilliantly green with the

rising crops. It was cheerful to see the peasants busy at their work, and the oxen and the creaking sakeeas diffusing the water over the thirsty soil.

The country was afterwards very uninteresting. There are a great number of isolated sandstone hills, particularly on the western bank, covered with very low shrubs, which furnish a quantity of charcoal, which is sent to Egypt, being one of the few resources of the poor Nubians. In various parts of Nubia, especially towards Wadee Halfeh, where villages on the west side are rare, there are often large detached brick enclosures, entirely surrounded by the desert. They were erected by Mohammed Ali as stations for the cattle, which were, in his reign, sent in great droves from Dongolah and further south.

We moored at Wadee Halfeh, opposite the village, to avoid the noise of the water wheels, and the rats of about a dozen dirty-looking Arab boats; within ten minutes' walk of a temple, of which a number of fragments of columns are still standing, but no remains of capitals. The only god I could distinguish on the masses of stone forming the entrance had the hawk's head (probably Re), and among the very few hieroglyphics now legible I traced the name of Thothmes III. A large portion of the enclosing wall of the temple of unbaked bricks, fronting the river, is a good guide to the ruin. Seventy paces to the

north are the stone foundations of a very small ancient chapel, and a hundred paces further north are the traces of a similar chapel, both without columns, sculpture, or hieroglyphics. Fragments of pottery are the only remains of the town which doubtless once existed here, and at a very early period, as Rosellini found among these ruins a statue of the time of Osirtasen I.

Donkeys or camels can be procured from Wadee Halfeh to visit the second cataract, a three hours' walk from this point; but with the small boat this distance may be diminished an hour. It is better to ride, as the walk over loose sand, yielding to the feet, and with the thermometer the first of January at eighty-three in the shade, is very fatiguing even for the strong. In an hour and a half we came to the first rocky islands, and in about the same time we reached the rock generally the *Ultima Thule* of Egyptian travellers, which commands the finest view of the cataract.

The view is more singular and grand than picturesque, the river bursting through innumerable rocky islands—some so small they may be called only stones, others large rocks, and some, of considerable size, of rocks and sand. Five of the largest, at the northern extremity of the rapids, were inhabited, and are planted with date trees, and on some of the other islands there are a few sunt trees. The rocks are

black, and shine in the sun even more than the granite of the first cataract. Surrounded by oceans of yellow sand, the contrast of colour is very striking, and reminds us of the islands of black lava on the plains near Mounts Etna and Vesuvius, totally different from the country that surrounds them.

On returning from my travels in Ethiopia, I arrived at this hill as the sun was setting, and the effect was certainly magical at that time; the black glittering basalt rocks, illuminated by the rays of a tropical sun, contrasting vividly with the almost white rocks of the foreground, and the yellow tints of the desert and low distant hills. The river being at its lowest point (July), the fall and noise of the rapids were considerable. Those who are acquainted with the literature of the Nile will distinguish on these rocks many names familiar to them. Would that other travellers would be content with engraving their names here, and cease to deface the monuments.

Wadee Halfeh has a very pleasing rural appearance, consisting of a succession of hamlets of from four to ten houses each. They say there are nearly a thousand houses, and almost all of them under groves of palm-trees. They are made of mud, but are larger and cleaner than the huts of the Egyptian peasants; and each house would be easily defended, having only a small doorway, and no windows, part only of the interior being covered with a roof. The peasants here

are well dressed, and, thanks to their groves of palms and commerce, evidently rich. The mistress of the house I entered was, as is usual in Nubia, very ugly; but the double row of small platted ringlets which encircled her head were carefully dressed, and resplendent with grease. Where the land near the houses is not cultivated, it is sandy, fatiguing to walk through; but there are some patches beyond the palms, and quite in the desert, cultivated by means of sakeeas and wells. The Sheakh's house, on the edge of the cultivated land, is larger and more capable of defence.

The trade carried on here with the South and North is considerable. Those caravans which do not like crossing the great Nubian desert, and travellers to Dongolah, Darfour, &c., hire their camels here, and, on their return, embark for Asouan or Cairo.

Every invalid who has visited the Nile will allow that the climate of Nubia is far superior to that of Egypt. The thermometer is generally six to eight degrees higher, and there is a total absence of damp. The heavy dews which especially before Christmas wet the decks of the boats before Esneh, are, above that place, totally unknown. In Nubia, as in Egypt, there is a great difference of temperature between the early mornings and the extreme heat of the day, but as the cold in Nubia is a dry cold, it is rarely injurious. When the thermometer at Christmas at Wadee

Halfeh was eighty to eighty-three in my cabin in an afternoon, and seventy-eight at night, it was often sixty and sixty-five in the morning.

I have seen rain for about an hour or two at Thebes, and once even in Nubia; but the thermometer does not fall so low then as when violent gales from the north-west prevail. These storms frequently occur, but seldom last above a day or two. At El-Kab, as we were descending the river, we had one in February for five days, which prevented our making the slightest progress. The wind was very cold; the thermometer, which, for six weeks before, had been every day above eighty, never rose above sixty—some days only fifty-five; and though at night we took every precaution to keep out the wind by covering the windows entirely with their canvas coverings, the thermometer was generally about fifty. There was often a great deal of sand flying about, but in the day-time, though the wind whistled and the boat rocked most disagreeably, generally the sun shone bright, and not a cloud was to be seen in the sky. My sailors and servants said they never recollected so strong a wind lasting so long.

Many travellers have assured me that they prefer the climate of Nubia to Madeira, and it is certainly finer than Algiers, which from experience I can assert is far superior, except in the spring, to the climates of Rome, Mentone, Nice, or the south of Spain. The

thermometer at Algiers for the first three months after Christmas is seldom higher than sixty-eight, often much lower; it frequently rains there; and I have seen the snow on the ground for two days together. Invalids should stay at least two months in Nubia, and not return to Cairo before the end of March or beginning of April; when the khamsin, the hot winds from the desert, will oblige them to take refuge for the remaining spring months in the more temperate climates of Malta, Corfu, or Italy.

The voyage from Wadee Halfeh to Cairo is made easily, if necessary, in a month, visiting all the principal antiquities: say ten days to Asouan, two hundred and twenty miles; five days to Thebes, one hundred and twenty-four miles; and fifteen more to Cairo, four hundred and fifty-five miles.* When, as is frequently the case, in February or March, there is a perfect calm, or a southerly breeze, the progress, with ten or twelve good rowers, is very rapid. By promising my sailors additional backsheesh, I once went from Sioot to Cairo, two hundred and fifty-four miles, in less than three days. The men never work so well

* Cairo, C. to Benisooef, 77 miles.
Benisooef, B. ,, Minieh, 82½ ,,
Minieh, M. ,, Sioot, 94¼ ,,
Sioot, S. ,, Girgeh, 88 ,,
Girgeh, G. ,, Keneh, 64 ,,
Keneh, K. ,, Thebes, 48½ ,,

Total, 454¼

See Handbook.

if they are not allowed to sing when they row; but if the singing is felt to be a nuisance, it can always be checked, or even stopped entirely.

Though not so delightful as sailing up the river with a fresh breeze, it is very agreeable gliding rapidly down the stream, passing the villages, groves, and temples, like a panorama. It is tiresome when the north winds are too strong to row against, and in a part of the river where there is little to see, as is frequently the case between Thebes and Cairo; but the sailors, for their own pleasure, will generally exert themselves to reach a large town, which will afford some amusement. Every journey or voyage has its drawbacks, but if proper precautions are taken at the outset to make their boat—their home—comfortable, few travellers will retain other than pleasant recollections of their voyage on the Nile.

We visited, opposite Wadee Halfeh, a caravan which arrived on the western bank when we were there, from the south, with three hundred and fifty prisoners. Some of them were girls and boys, but most of them young men, chained together by the neck in parties of four. This is not usual, but they say that a month ago they escaped from the Turkish soldiers, just as they got here, but were caught again near Kordofan, and sent down a second time in irons. They were prisoners made in the skirmishes which are continually going on at the frontiers of the

Pasha's dominions. The men said themselves that they came from Darfour. Their features and colour were quite like the negroes, thick lips, high cheek bones, and woolly hair, with bluish-black complexions. The men are made soldiers of, and the girls are given to them for wives. When the men arrive at Cairo, they are furnished with arms, and the usual white Nizam dress, so becoming to them; and they are divided among the black regiments in different parts of Egypt. I hope they will never again be lent to the Emperor Napoleon to die of fever at Vera Cruz. They are supplied with provisions, but no wages, like the Egyptian soldiers, who receive twenty piastres a month.

The slave-markets of Cairo, Esneh, and other places are abolished, but slavery still exists in Egypt. There are merchants, chiefly Turks, at Khartoom, who carry on an enormous traffic in slaves, making often predatory expeditions into the districts on the borders of the Pasha's dominions, especially on the White Nile.

Having, in my travels in Ethiopia, followed the Nile almost to where it takes the name of Bahr-el-Abiad, I cannot conclude this volume without offering my homage to the discoverers of the source of the Nile.

That old mystery the ancient Egyptians and Ethiopians, with all their knowledge, wealth, and power,

near as they were to the now renowned lake, never appear to have attempted to solve, or the Greek travellers in Egypt would certainly have recorded it, and which, also, the two centurions, sent by Nero, could not fathom, Captains Speke and Grant, to the great credit of the Royal Geographical Society, who promoted the enterprise, and to their own eternal honour, have at last cleared up. The Lake Victoria Nyanza, three thousand five hundred feet above the sea, and extending about one hundred and eighty miles south of the equator, which may be considered nearly its northern boundary, and measuring about the same from east to west, is the great reservoir of the sacred Bahr-el-Abiad—the White Nile. Nearly from the centre of the northern coast of this lake, twenty miles north of the equator, issues the Nile in a current a hundred and fifty yards wide, and soon after leaps a cataract twelve feet high. Streams from a cluster of mountains, ten thousand feet high, the Kitangule and other rivers, and several lakes, especially a very large one called Luta Nzigé, a hundred and twenty miles to the north-west, which Mr. Barker has gone to explore, are the chief feeders of the great river; but it is to the effect of the equatorial rains in those great basins that Egypt owes her fecundity. The difficulties of the journey, extending over two years and a half, must have been very great. I understand they started with about two hundred por-

ters to carry the goods with which they had to buy their way through several powerful kingdoms, but almost at the very outset three-fourths of them deserted; that fifty negroes, liberated slaves, alone remained with them, and of these it appears only twenty-three reached the source of the Nile. The exploration of the previously unvisited countries, between four degrees south and nearly the same north, would alone have been the most enterprising journey of modern days; but combined with the satisfactory examination of the great inland lake, Victoria Nyanza, so as to establish it, beyond a doubt, as the great reservoir of the Nile, this great geographical feat is a glory to England, and a glory to our gracious Queen, whose name that now celebrated lake appropriately bears.

THE END.

LONDON: PRINTED BY MACDONALD AND TUGWELL, BLENHEIM HOUSE.

ERRATA.

Page 30, *for* Mekkeh *read* Mecca.
" 43 & 231, *for* Osirtisen and Oristasen *read* Osirtasen.
" 53, *for* faulchion *read* falchion.
" 67 & 76, *for* Ptah *read* Pthah.
" 68, *for* pilasters *read* pillars.
" 239, *for* Androosphinxes *read* Androsphinxes.
" 270, *for* land in it *read* land near it.

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